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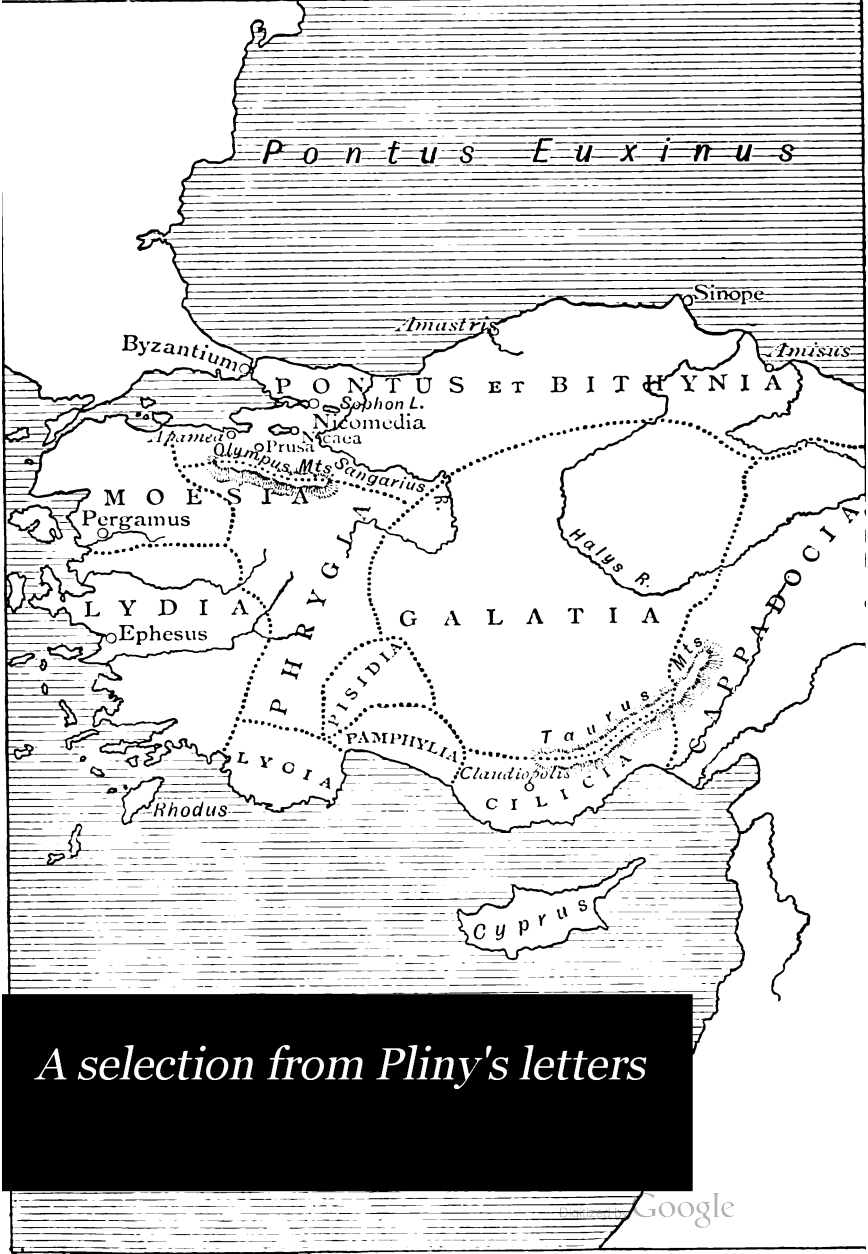

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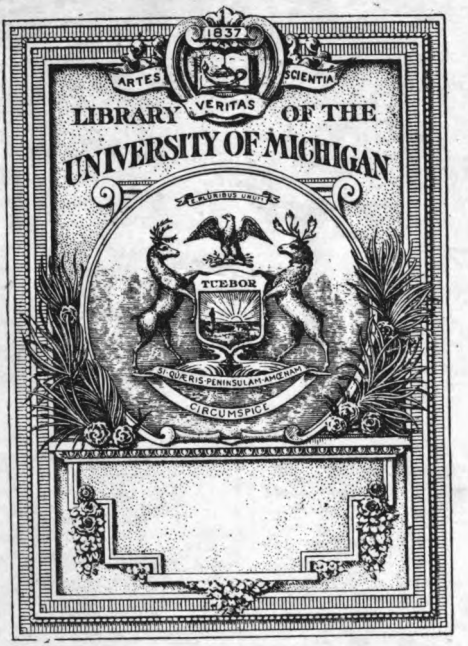

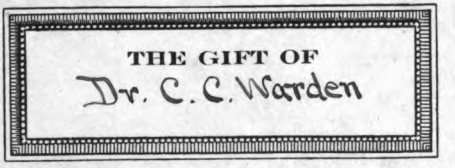

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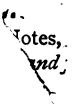

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PREFACE

THERE are several reasons why the *Letters* of Pliny, "the most elegant writer of his day," should be more universally read in Schools:

1. They are full of *human nature.*
2. The Latin is generally easy and runs naturally into English.
3. They supply information about Roman manners and morals which we cannot easily obtain at first-hand elsewhere.
4. They give us "the fairest and fullest portrait we possess of a Roman gentleman."

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INTRODUCTION

C. PLINIUS CAECILIUS* SECUNDUS, a member of the ancient "Caecilia gens," was born at Comum A.D. 61, in the reign of Nero. He was adopted by his maternal uncle Pliny, the celebrated author of the *Historia Naturalis*, who superintended his education. Like his uncle, the younger Pliny showed equal aptitude for private study and public life. He studied eloquence under Quintilian, and began to speak in the forum in his nineteenth year, afterwards pleading frequently as an advocate before the Court of the Centumviri. He filled numerous offices in succession. While a young man he served as Tribunus Militum in Syria. Under Domitian he was Quaestor Caesaris and Praetor, but retired from public life during the last three years of the Emperor's reign, thereby risking the serious danger of his resentment. The death of Domitian brought Pliny out of his retirement, and he rose to great distinction under Nerva and his successor Trajan. He was Consul A.D. 100, and was appointed Propraetor of

* The longer form in '-anus' ceased about this time to be employed to indicate adoption. At an earlier period we should have read 'Plinius Caecilianus.'

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Bithynia, A.D. 103, where he remained for nearly two years. He held also several other offices, such as augur, praefectus aerario, and curator of the banks and channel of the Tiber. He suffered much from ill-health, but the time and manner of his death are unknown. Though twice married, he left no children.

The only extant works of Pliny are the Panegyric on Trajan, delivered during his own consulship, and ten books of letters prepared for publication by himself.

Judged by the evidence of these letters, his character was singularly amiable. He was rich and generous,* but without ostentation; humane to his slaves, liberal to his tenants, a lover of probity and justice. While devoted to literary pursuits, he had a keen appreciation of the beauties of Nature, and was fond of sport in a dilettante sort of way. He was an affectionate husband and warm-hearted friend, always ready to recognise and encourage youthful merit. Though brought up in the philosophy of the Stoics, his sympathies were rather with the later and gentler school, which attached a high value to the virtues of pity and benevolence. For the Emperor Trajan he had a great admiration, and considered the Imperial Government the best possible for Rome under existing circumstances.

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* See Index.

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The *Letters of Pliny* fall naturally into three groups—

1. *Letters to ordinary correspondents** (1-80 in this selection). These are of the most varied description and contain lively notices of passing events, society gossip, ghost stories, and convivial anecdotes, with serious reflections on literature and ethics. (*See* Index.)
2. *Letters to Trajan* (81-132). A valuable series written from Bithynia, during Pliny's propraetorship, and illustrating both the strength and weakness of the Roman system of provincial government.
3. *A few more difficult Letters* (133-142). Giving detailed accounts of some important subjects about which we have very little other information.

   Among these especially noteworthy are Pliny's account of the Christians in his province (131); of the eruption of Vesuvius (133-134), in which his uncle lost his life, and his minute description of his Laurentine (137) and Tuscan (138) villas.

It is often said that as Pliny's Letters were written with a view to publication, the sentiments expressed in them cannot be genuine. Even if the truth of this somewhat gratuitous objection be admitted, it is interesting to notice that a writer in the first century

* These were very numerous, and contain among them the best-known names of the day.

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thought it worth while to assume a tone which would pass muster in the 19th.

The text of this selection has been taken from the edition of Keil.

The Notes are intended to supply any information that cannot be obtained from an ordinary small dictionary, so as to fit the book for general School use.

The plan of the Laurentinum (p. 120) is taken in the main from Castell's villas of the ancients, but many of the details are purely conjectural.

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ORDER OF THE LETTERS IN THIS SELECTION COMPARED WITH THAT IN KEIL'S EDITION.

This Selection.	Keil's Edition.	Name of Correspondent.
1.	i. 1.	Septicius Clarus.
2.	vi. 7.	Calpurnia.
3.	vii. 5.	Calpurnia.
4.	ix. 35.	Atrius.
5.	ii. 8.	Caninius.
6.	vi. 14.	Mauricus.
7.	ix. 32.	Titianus.
8.	i. 11.	Fabius Justus.
9.	v. 18.	Calpurnius Macer.
10.	viii. 9.	Ursus.
11.	i. 6.	Cornelius Tacitus.
12.	ix. 10.	Cornelius Tacitus.
13.	ix. 12.	Junior.
14.	i. 15.	Septicius Clarus.
15.	iii. 12.	Catilius Severus.
16.	ix. 21.	Sabinianus.
17.	ix. 24.	Sabinianus.
18.	v. 2.	Calpurnius Flaccus.
19.	vii. 21.	Cornutus.
20.	vii. 13.	Ferox.
21.	ix. 16.	Mamilianus.
22.	vii. 3.	Praesens.
23.	v. 19.	Paulinus.
24.	vi. 28.	Pontius.

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This Selection.	Keil's Edition.	Name of Correspondent.
25.	vi. 3.	Verus.
26.	ix. 17.	Genitor.
27.	ii. 6.	Avitus.
28.	vii. 23.	Fabatus.
29.	ii. 2.	Paulinus.
30.	vi. 12.	Fabatus.
31.	vi. 9.	Cornelius Tacitus.
32.	vii. 28.	Septicius Clarus.
33.	vii. 1.	Geminus.
34.	viii. 22.	Geminus.
35.	ix. 31.	Sardus.
36.	i. 13.	Socius Senecio.
37.	vi. 15.	Romanus.
38.	ix. 34.	Suetonius Tranquillus.
39.	i. 21.	Paternus.
40.	ix. 20.	Venator.
41.	i. 24.	Baevius Hispanus.
42.	i. 19.	Romatius Firmus.
43.	vi. 32.	Quintilianus.
44.	iv. 6.	Julius Naso.
45.	vi. 25.	Hispanus.
46.	iii. 14.	Acilius.
47.	i. 18.	Suetonius Tranquillus.
48.	vi. 23.	Triarius.
49.	vi. 24.	Calpurnius Macer.
50.	v. 9.	Saturninus.
51.	iii. 19.	Calvisius Rufus.
52.	ix. 37.	Paulinus.
53.	iii. 21.	Cornelius Priscus.
54.	iii. 6.	Annius Severus.
55.	viii. 23.	Marcellinus.
56.	v. 16.	Marcellinus.
57.	vi. 34.	Maximus.
58.	ix. 6.	Calvisius.

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This Selection.	Keil's Edition.	Name of Correspondent.
59.	iv. 22.	Sempronius Rufus.
60.	viii. 2.	Calvisius.
61.	vi. 11.	Maximus.
62.	viii. 16.	Paternus.
63.	vii. 26.	Maximus.
64.	ix. 23.	Maximus.
65.	ix. 30.	Geminus.
66.	iv. 10.	Statius Sabinus.
67.	vi. 10.	Albinus.
68.	ii. 20.	Calvisius.
69.	iv. 2.	Attius Clemens.
70.	iv. 7.	Catius Lepidus.
71.	iii. 20.	Messius Maximus.
72.	iv. 25.	Messius Maximus.
73.	v. 21.	Rufus.
74.	iv. 13.	Cornelius Tacitus.
75.	i. 12.	Calaestrius Tiro.
76.	i. 22.	Catilius Severus.
77.	iii. 16.	Nepos.
78.	ix. 39.	Mustius.
79.	vii. 27.	Sura.
80.	ix. 33.	Caninius.
81.	x. 15.	Trajan.
82.	x. 16.	Trajan to Pliny.
83.	x. 17.	Trajan.
84.	x. 19.	Trajan.
85.	x. 20.	Trajan to Pliny.
86.	x. 23.	Trajan.
87.	x. 24.	Trajan to Pliny.
88.	x. 27.	Trajan.
89.	x. 28.	Trajan to Pliny.
90.	x. 29.	Trajan.
91.	x. 30.	Trajan to Pliny.
92.	x. 31.	Trajan.

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This Selection.	Keil's Edition.	Name of Correspondent.
93.	x. 32.	Trajan to Pliny.
94.	x. 33.	Trajan.
95.	x. 34.	Trajan to Pliny.
96.	x. 37.	Trajan.
97.	x. 38.	Trajan to Pliny.
98.	x. 39.	Trajan.
99.	x. 40.	Trajan to Pliny.
100.	x. 41.	Trajan.
101.	x. 42.	Trajan to Pliny.
102.	x. 43.	Trajan.
103.	x. 44.	Trajan to Pliny.
104.	x. 45.	Trajan.
105.	x. 46.	Trajan to Pliny.
106.	x. 47.	Trajan.
107.	x. 49.	Trajan.
108.	x. 50.	Trajan to Pliny.
109.	x. 52.	Trajan.
110.	x. 53.	Trajan to Pliny.
111.	x. 54.	Trajan.
112.	x. 55.	Trajan to Pliny.
113.	x. 65.	Trajan.
114.	x. 66.	Trajan to Pliny.
115.	x. 68.	Trajan.
116.	x. 69.	Trajan to Pliny.
117.	x. 70.	Trajan.
118.	x. 71.	Trajan to Pliny.
119.	x. 90.	Trajan.
120.	x. 91.	Trajan to Pliny.
121.	x. 92.	Trajan.
122.	x. 93.	Trajan to Pliny.
123.	x. 94.	Trajan.
124.	x. 95.	Trajan to Pliny.
125.	x. 98.	Trajan.
126.	x. 99.	Trajan to Pliny.

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This Selection.	Keil's Edition.	Name of Correspondent.
127.	x. 106.	Trajan.
128.	x. 107.	Trajan to Pliny.
129.	x. 120.	Trajan.
130.	x. 121.	Trajan to Pliny.
131.	x. 96.	Trajan.
132.	x. 97.	Trajan to Pliny.
133.	vi. 16.	Cornelius Tacitus.
134.	vi. 20.	Cornelius Tacitus.
135.	iii. 5.	Baebius Macer.
136.	iii. 1.	Calvisius.
137.	ii. 17.	Gallus.
138.	v. 6.	Domitius Apollinaris.
139.	ix. 36.	Fuscus.
140.	ix. 40.	Fuscus.
141.	viii. 8.	Romanus.
142.	viii. 20.	Gallus.

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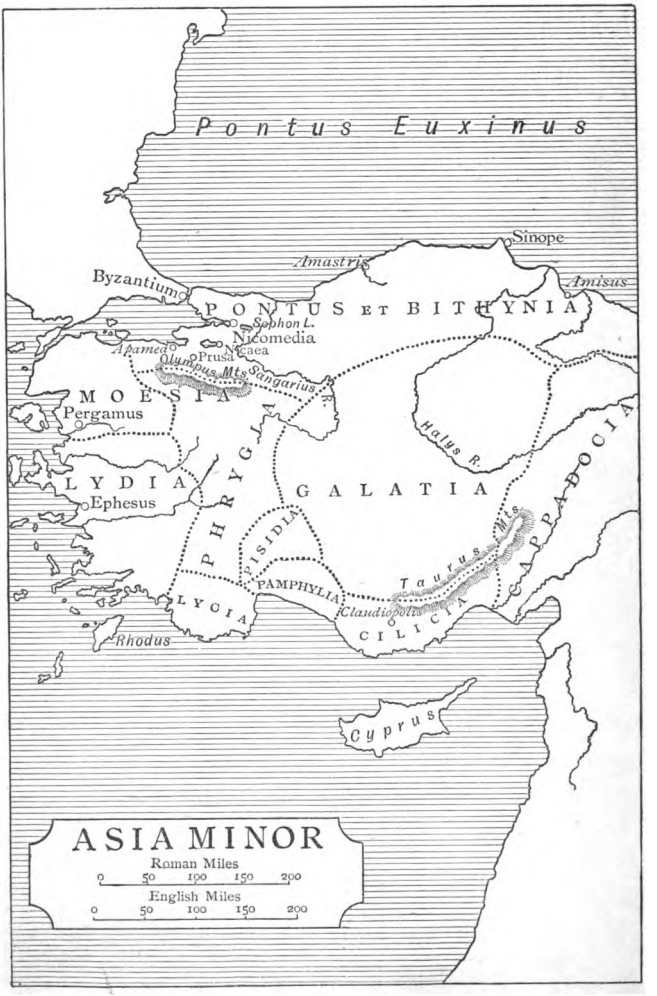

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C. PLINI CAECILI SECUNDI
EPISTULAE SELECTAE.

1. C. Plinius Septicio suo s.

Frequenter hortatus es, ut epistulas, si quas paulo curatius scripsissem, colligerem publicaremque. Collegi, non servato temporis ordine (neque enim historiam conponebam), sed ut quaeque in manus venerat. Superest, ut nec te consilii nec me paeniteat obsequii. Ita enim fiet, ut eas, quae adhuc neglectae iacent, requiram, et si quas addidero, non supprimam. Vale. [i. 1.]

2. C. Plinius Calpurniae suae s.

Scribis te absentia mea non mediocriter adfici, unumque habere solacium, quod pro me libellos meos teneas, saepe etiam in vestigio meo conloces. Gratum est, quod nos requiris, gratum, quod his fomentis adquiescis: invicem ego epistulas tuas lectito adque identidem in manus quasi novas sumo; sed eo magis ad desiderium tui accendor. Nam cuius litterae tantum habent suavitatis, huius sermonibus quantum dulcedinis inest! Tu tamen quam frequentissime scribe, licet hoc ita me delectet ut torqueat. Vale. [vi. 7.]

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3. C. Plinius Calpurniae suae s.

Incredibile est, quanto desiderio tui tenear. In causa amor primum; deinde quod non consuevimus abesse. Inde est, quod magnam noctium partem in imagine tua vigil exigo; inde quod interdiu, quibus horis te visere solebam, ad diaetam tuam ipsi me, ut verissime dicitur, pedes ducunt, quod denique aeger, et maestus ac similis excluso, a vacuo limine recedo. Unum tempus his tormentis caret, quo in foro amicorum litibus conteror. Aestima tu, quae vita mea sit, cui requies in labore, in miseria curisque solacium. Vale. [vii. 5.]

4. C. Plinius Atrio suo s.

Librum, quem misisti, recepi et gratias ago. Sum tamen hoc tempore occupatissimus. Ideo nondum eum legi, cum alioqui validissime cupiam: sed eam reverentiam cum litteris ipsis, tum scriptis tuis debeo, ut sumere illa, nisi vacuo-animo, inreligiosum putem. Diligentiam tuam in retractandis operibus valde probo. Est tamen aliquis modus, primum, quod nimia cura deterit magis, quam emendat; deinde, quod nos a recentioribus revocat, simulque nec absolvit priora, et inchoare posteriora non patitur. Vale. [ix. 35.]

5. C. Plinius Caninio suo s.

Studes? an piscaris? an venaris? an simul omnia? Possunt enim omnia simul fieri ad Larium nostrum.

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Nam lacus piscem, feras silvae quibus lacus cingitur, studia altissimus iste secessus adfatim suggerunt. Sed sive omnia simul, sive aliquid facis, non possum dicere 'invideo': angor tamen non et mihi licere, quae sic concupisco, ut aegri vinum, balinea, fontes. Numquamne hos artissimos laqueos, si solvere negatur, abrumpam? Numquam, puto. Nam veteribus negotiis nova adcrescunt, nec tamen priora peraguntur: tot nexibus, tot quasi catenis maius in dies occupationum agmen extenditur. Vale. [ii. 8.]

6. C. Plinius Maurico suo s.

Sollicitas me in Formianum. Veniam ea conditione, ne quid contra commodum tuum facias; qua pactione invicem mihi caveo. Neque enim mare et litus sed te, otium, libertatem sequor: alioqui satius est in urbe remanere. Oportet enim omnia aut ad alienum arbitrium, aut ad suum facere: mei certe stomachi haec natura est, ut nihil nisi totum et merum velit. Vale. [vi. 14.]

7. C. Plinius Titiano suo s.

Quid agis? quid acturus es? Ipse vitam iucundissimam, id est otiosissimam, vivo. Quo fit ut scribere longiores epistulas nolim, velim legere, illud tamquam delicatus, hoc tamquam otiosus. Nihil est enim aut pigrius delicatis, aut curiosius otiosis. Vale. [ix. 32.]

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8. C. Plinius Fabio Iusto suo s.

Olim mihi nullas epistulas mittis. 'Nihil est,' inquis, 'quod scribam.' At hoc ipsum scribe, nihil esse quod scribas; vel solum illud, unde incipere priores solebant 'si vales, bene est; ego valeo.' Hoc mihi sufficit; est enim maximum. Ludere me putas? serio peto. Fac sciam quid agas, quod sine sollicitudine summa nescire non possum. Vale. [i. 11.]

9. C. Plinius Calpurnio Macro suo s.

Bene est mihi, quia tibi bene est. Habes uxorem tecum, habes filium; frueris mari, fontibus, viridibus, agro, villa amoenissima. Neque enim dubito esse amoenissimam, in qua se conposuerat homo felicior ante quam felicissimus fieret. Ego in Tuscis et venor et studeo, quae interdum alternis, interdum simul facio, nec tamen adhuc possum pronuntiare, utrum sit difficilius capere aliquid an scribere. Vale. [v. 18.]

10. C. Plinius Urso suo s.

Olim non librum in manus, non stilum sumpsi olim nescio, quid sit otium, quid quies, quid denique illud iners quidem, iucundum tamen nihil agere, nihil esse: adeo multa me negotia amicorum nec secedere, nec studere patiuntur. Nulla enim studia tanti ut amicitiae officium deseratur, quod religiosissime custodiendum studia ipsa praecipiunt. Vale. [viii. 9.]

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11. C. Plinius Cornelio Tacito suo s.

Ridebis, et licet rideas. Ego ille, quem nosti, apros tres et quidem pulcherrimos cepi. Ipse? inquis. Ipse; non tamen ut omnino ab inertia mea et quiete discederem. Ad retia sedebam: erat in proximo non venabulum aut lancea, sed stilus et pugillares: meditabar aliquid enotabamque, ut, si manus vacuas, plenas tamen ceras reportarem. Non est quod contemnas hoc studendi genus. Mirum est ut animus agitatione motuque corporis excitetur. Iam undique silvae et solitudo ipsumque illud silentium, quod venationi datur, magna cogitationis incitamenta sunt. Proinde cum venabere, licebit, auctore me, ut panarium et lagunculam sic etiam pugillares feras. Experieris non Dianam magis montibus quam Minervam inerrare. Vale. [i. 6.]

12. C. Plinius Tacito suo s.

Cupio praeceptis tuis parere; sed aprorum tanta penuria est ut Minervae et Dianae, quas ais pariter colendas, convenire non possit. Itaque Minervae tantum serviendum est; delicate tamen, ut in secessu et aestate. In via plane non nulla leviora statimque delenda, ea garrulitate, qua sermones in vehiculo seruntur, extendi. His quaedam addidi in villa, cum aliud non liberet. Itaque poëmata quiescunt, quae tu inter nemora et lucos commodissime perfici putas. Oratiunculam unam alteram retractavi; quamquam id genus operis inamabile, inamoenum, magisque laboribus ruris quam voluptatibus simile. Vale. [ix. 10.]

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13. C. Plinius Iuniori suo s.

Castigabat quidam filium suum, quod paulo sumptuosius equos et canes emeret. Huic ego, iuvene digresso; 'heus tu, numquamne fecisti, quod a patre corripi posset? fecisti, dico? non interdum facis, quod filius tuus, si repente pater ille, tu filius, pari gravitate reprehendat? Non omnes homines aliquo errore ducuntur? non hic in illo sibi, in hoc alius indulget?' Haec tibi admonitus inmodicae severitatis exemplo, pro amore mutuo scripsi, ne quando tu quoque filium tuum acerbius duriusque tractares. Cogita et illum puerum esse et te fuisse, atque ita hoc, quod es pater, utere, ut memineris et hominem esse te et hominis patrem. Vale. [ix. 12.]

14. C. Plinius Septicio Claro suo s.

Heus tu promittis ad cenam nec venis! Dicetur ius: ad assem impendium reddes, nec id modicum. Paratae erant lactucae singulae, cochleae ternae, ova bina, alica cum mulso et nive (nam hanc quoque computabis, immo hanc in primis, quae periit in ferculo), olivae, betacei, cucurbitae, bulbi, alia mille non minus lauta. Audisses comoedos vel lectorem vel lyristen vel, quae mea liberalitas, omnes. At tu apud nescio quem ostrea, vulvas, echinos, Gaditanas maluisti. Dabis poenas, non dico quas. Dure fecisti: invidisti, nescio an tibi, certe mihi, sed tamen et tibi. Quantum nos lusissemus, risissemus, studuissemus! Potes apparatius cenare apud multos, nusquam hilarius, simplicius, incautius. In summa, experire, et nisi postea te aliis potius excusaveris, mihi semper excusa. Vale. [i. 15.]

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15. C. Plinius Catilio Severo suo s.

Veniam ad cenam; sed iam nunc paciscor, sit expedita, sit parca; Socraticis tantum sermonibus abundet, in his quoque teneat modum. Erunt officia antelucana, in quae incidere inpune ne Catoni quidem licuit, quem tamen C. Caesar ita reprehendit ut laudet. Describit enim eos, quibus obvius fuerat, cum caput ebrii retexissent, erubuisse: deinde adicit 'putares non ab illis Catonem, sed illos a Catone deprehensos.' Potuitne plus auctoritatis tribui Catoni, quam si ebrius quoque tam venerabilis erat? Nostrae tamen cenae ut apparatus et inpendii, sic temporis modus constet. Neque enim ii sumus, quos vituperare ne inimici quidem possint, nisi ut simul laudent. Vale. [iii. 12.]

16. C. Plinius Sabiniano suo s.

Libertus tuus, cui succensere te dixeras, venit ad me advolutusque pedibus meis, tamquam tuis, haesit. Flevit multum, multum rogavit, multum etiam tacuit, in summa, fecit mihi fidem paenitentiae. Vero credo emendatum, quia deliquisse se sentit. Irasceris, scio, et irasceris merito, id quoque scio: sed tunc praecipua mansuetudinis laus, cum irae causa iustissima est. Amasti hominem et, spero, amabis: interim sufficit, ut exorari te sinas. Licebit rursus irasci, si meruerit, quod exoratus excusatius facies. Remitte aliquid adulescentiae ipsius, remitte lacrimis, remitte indulgentiae tuae: ne torseris illum, ne torseris etiam te. Torqueris enim, cum tam lenis irasceris. Vereor ne videar non

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rogare sed cogere, si precibus eius meas iunxero. Iungam tamen tanto plenius et effusius, quanto ipsum acrius severiusque corripui; districte minatus numquam me postea rogaturum. Hoc illi, quem terreri oportebat, tibi non idem. Nam fortasse iterum rogabo, impetrabo iterum: sit modo tale ut rogare me, ut praestare te deceat. Vale. [ix. 21.]

17. C. Plinius Sabiniano suo s.

Bene fecisti quod libertum aliquando tibi carum, reducentibus epistulis meis, in domum, in animum recepisti. Iuvabit hoc te: me certe iuvat; primum, quod te tam tractabilem video, ut in ira regi possis; deinde, quod tantum mihi tribuis, ut vel auctoritati meae pareas vel precibus indulgeas. Igitur laudo et gratias ago. Simul in posterum moneo, ut te erroribus tuorum, etsi non fuerit, qui deprecetur, placabilem praestes. Vale. [ix. 24.]

18. C. Plinius Calpurnio Flacco suo s.

Accepi pulcerrimos turdos, cum quibus parem calculum ponere, nec urbis copiis ex Laurentino, nec maris tam turbidis tempestatibus possum. Recipies ergo epistulas steriles et simpliciter ingratas: ac ne illam quidem sollertiam Diomedis in permutando munere imitantes. Sed, quae facilitas tua, hoc magis dabis veniam, quod se non mereri fatentur. Vale. [v. 2.]

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19. C. Plinius Cornuto suo s.

Pareo, collega carissime, et infirmitati oculorum, ut iubes, consulo. Nam et huc tecto vehiculo undique inclusus, quasi in cubiculo, perveni et hic non stilo modo, verum etiam lectionibus difficulter, sed abstineo, solisque auribus studeo. Cubicula obductis velis opaca, nec tamen obscura, facio. Cryptoporticus quoque, adopertis inferioribus fenestris, tantum umbrae quantum luminis habet. Sic paulatim lucem ferre condisco. Balineum adsumo, quia prodest; vinum, quia non nocet, parcissime tamen. Ita adsuevi, et nunc custos adest. Gallinam, ut a te missam, libenter accepi; quam satis acribus oculis, quamquam adhuc lippus, pinguissimam vidi. Vale. [vii. 21.]

20. C. Plinius Feroci suo s.

Eadem epistula et non studere te et studere significat. Aenigmata loquor. Ita plane, donec distinctius, quod sentio, enuntiem. Negat enim te studere, sed est tam polita, quam nisi a studente non potest scribi: aut es tu super omnes beatus, si talia per desidiam et otium perficis. Vale. [vii. 13.]

21. C. Plinius Mamiliano suo s.

Summam te voluptatem percepisse ex isto copiosissimo genere venandi non miror, cum historicorum more scribas, numerum iniri non potuisse. Nobis venari nec vacat, nec libet: non vacat, quia vindemiae in manibus; non libet, quia exiguae. Devehimus tamen pro novo

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musto novos versiculos tibique iucundissime exigenti, ut primum videbuntur defervisse, mittemus. Vale. [ix. 16.]

22. C. Plinius Praesenti suo s.

Tantane perseverantia tu modo in Lucania, modo in Campania? 'Ipse enim' inquis 'Lucanus, uxor Campana.' Iusta causa longioris absentiae, non perpetuae tamen. Quin ergo aliquando in urbem redis? ubi dignitas, honor, amicitiae, tam superiores, quam minores. Quousque regnabis? quousque vigilabis cum voles? dormies quam diu voles? quousque calcei nusquam? toga feriata? liber totus dies? Tempus est te revisere molestias nostras, vel ob hoc solum, ne voluptates istae satietate languescant. Saluta paulisper, quo sit tibi iucundius salutari: terere in hac turba, ut te solitudo delectet. Sed quid inprudens, quem evocare conor, retardo? Fortasse enim his ipsis admoneris, ut te magis ac magis otio involvas; quod ego non abrumpi, sed intermitti volo. Ut enim, si cenam tibi facerem dulcibus cibis acres acutosque miscerem, ut obtusus illis et oblitus stomachus his excitaretur, ita nunc hortor, ut iucundissimum genus vitae nonnullis interdum quasi acoribus condias. Vale. [vii. 3.]

23. C. Plinius Paulino suo s.

Video quam molliter tuos habeas: quo simplicius tibi confitebor, qua indulgentia meos tractem. Est mihi semper in animo et Homericum illud πατὴρ δ' ὡς ἤπιος ἦεν et hoc nostrum 'pater familiae.' Quod si

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essem natura asperior et durior, frangeret me tamen infirmitas liberti mei Zosimi, cui tanto maior humanitas exhibenda est, quanto nunc illa magis eget. Homo probus officiosus litteratus; et ars quidem eius et quasi inscriptio comoedus, in qua plurimum facit. Nam pronuntiat acriter, sapienter, apte, decenter etiam; utitur et cithara perite, ultra quam comoedo necesse est. Idem tam commode orationes et historias et carmina legit, ut hoc solum didicisse videatur. Haec tibi sedulo exposui, quo magis scires, quam multa unus mihi et quam iucunda ministeria praestaret. Accedit longa iam caritas hominis, quam ipsa pericula auxerunt. Est enim ita natura comparatum, ut nihil aeque amorem incitet et accendat, quam carendi metus, quem ego pro hoc non semel patior. Nam ante aliquot annos, dum intente instanterque pronuntiat, sanguinem reiecit, atque ob hoc in Aegyptum missus a me, post longam peregrinationem confirmatus rediit nuper: deinde dum per continuos dies nimis imperat voci, veteris infirmitatis tussicula admonitus, rursus sanguinem reddidit. Qua ex causa destinavi eum mittere in praedia tua, quae Foro Iuli possides. Audivi enim te saepe referentem, esse ibi et aëra salubrem et lac eiusmodi curationibus accommodatissimum. Rogo ergo scribas tuis ut illi villa, ut domus pateat; offerant etiam sumptibus eius, si quid opus erit; erit autem opus modico. Est enim tam parcus et continens, ut non solum delicias, verum etiam necessitates valetudinis frugalitate restringat. Ego proficiscenti tantum viatici dabo quantum sufficiat eunti in tua. Vale. [v. 19.]

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24. C. Plinius Pontio suo s.

Scio, quae tibi causa fuerit impedimento, quo minus praecurrere adventum meum in Campaniam posses: sed quamquam absens, totus huc migrasti: tantum mihi copiarum, qua urbanarum qua rusticarum nomine tuo oblatum est, quas omnes improbe accepi tamen. Nam et tui ut ita facerem, rogabant et verebar, ne et mihi et illis irascereris, si non fecissem. In posterum, nisi adhibueris modum, ego adhibebo. Etiam tuis denuntiavi, si rursus tam multa attulissent, omnia relaturos. Dices, oportere me tuis rebus ut meis uti: etiam; sed perinde illis ac meis parco. Vale. [vi. 28.]

25. C. Plinius Vero suo.

Gratias ago, quod agellum, quem nutrici meae donaveram, colendum suscepisti. Erat, cum donarem, centum milium nummum: postea, decrescente reditu, etiam pretium minuit, quod nunc, te curante, reparabit. Tu modo memineris, commendari tibi a me non arbores et terram, quamquam haec quoque, sed munusculum meum; quod esse quam fructuosissimum non illius magis interest, quae accepit, quam mea, qui dedi. Vale. [vi. 3.]

26. C. Plinius Genitori suo s.

Recepi litteras tuas, quibus quereris taedio tibi fuisse quamvis lautissimam cenam, quia scurrae et moriones mensis inerrabant. Vis tu remittere aliquid ex

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rugis? equidem nihil tale habeo, habentes tamen fero. Cur ergo non habeo? quia nequaquam me ut inexspectatum festivumve delectat, si quid petulans a scurra, stultum a morione profertur. Non rationem sed stomachum tibi narro. Atque adeo quam multos putas esse, quos ea, quibus ego et tu capimur et ducimur, partim ut inepta, partim ut molestissima offendant? Quam multi, cum lector aut lyristes aut comoedus inductus est, calceos poscunt, aut non minore cum taedio recubant, quam tu ista (sic enim appellas) prodigia perpessus es? Demus igitur alienis oblectationibus veniam, ut nostris inpetremus. Vale. [ix. 17.]

27. C. Plinius Avito suo s.

Longum est altius repetere, nec refert, quemadmodum acciderit, ut homo minime familiaris cenarem apud quendam, ut sibi videbatur, lautum et diligentem, ut mihi, sordidum simul et sumptuosum. Nam sibi et paucis opima quaedam, ceteris vilia et minuta ponebat. Vinum etiam parvulis lagunculis in tria genera descripserat, non ut potestas eligendi, sed ne ius esset recusandi, aliud sibi et nobis, aliud minoribus amicis (nam gradatim amicos habet), aliud suis nostrisque libertis. Animadvertit, qui mihi proximus recumbebat et, an probarem, interrogavit. Negavi. 'Tu ergo' inquit 'quam consuetudinem sequeris?' 'Eadem omnibus pono: ad cenam enim, non ad notam invito, cunctisque rebus exaequo, quos mensa et toro aequavi.' 'Etiamne liber-

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tos?' 'Etiam: convictores enim tunc, non libertos puto.' Et ille 'magno tibi constat?' 'Minime.' 'Qui fieri potest?' 'Quia scilicet liberti mei non idem quod ego bibunt, sed idem ego quod liberti.' Et Hercule si gulae temperes, non est onerosum, quo utaris ipse, communicare cum pluribus. Illa ergo reprimenda, illa quasi in ordinem redigenda est, si sumptibus parcas, quibus aliquanto rectius tua continentia, quam aliena contumelia consulas. Quorsus haec? ne tibi, optimae indolis iuveni, quorundam in mensa luxuria specie frugalitatis inponat. Convenit autem amori in te meo, quotiens tale aliquid inciderit, sub exemplo praemonere, quid debeas fugere. Igitur memento, nihil magis esse vitandum, quam istam luxuriae et sordium novam societatem; quae cum sint turpissima discreta ac separata, turpius iunguntur. Vale. [ii. 6.]

28. C. Plinius Fabato Prosocero suo s.

Gaudeo quidem esse te tam fortem, ut Mediolani occurrere Tironi possis, sed, ut perseveres esse tam fortis, rogo, ne tibi contra rationem aetatis tantum laboris iniungas. Quin immo denuntio, ut illum et domi et intra domum atque etiam intra cubiculi limen exspectes. Etenim cum a me ut frater diligatur, non debet ab eo, quem ego parentis loco observo, exigere officium, quod parenti suo remisisset. Vale. [vii. 23.]

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29. C. Plinius Paulino suo s.

Irascor, nec liquet mihi an debeam, sed irascor. Scis quam sit amor iniquus interdum, inpotens saepe, μικραίτιος semper. Haec tamen causa magna est, nescio an iusta: sed ego, tamquam non minus iusta quam magna sit, graviter irascor quod a te tam diu litterae nullae. Exorare me potes uno modo, si nunc saltem plurimas et longissimas miseris. Haec mihi sola excusatio vera, ceterae falsae videbuntur. Non sum auditurus 'non eram Romae' vel 'occupatior eram.' Illud enim nec di sinant, ut 'infirmior.' Ipse ad villam partim studiis, partim desidia fruor; quorum utrumque ex otio nascitur. Vale. [ii. 2.]

30. C. Plinius Fabato Prosocero suo s.

Tu vero non debes suspensa manu commendare mihi, quos tuendos putas. Nam et te decet multis prodesse, et me suscipere quidquid ad curam tuam pertinet. Itaque Vettio Prisco, quantum plurimum potuero, praestabo, praesertim in arena mea, hoc est, apud Centumviros. Epistularum, quas mihi, ut ais, aperto pectore scripsisti, oblivisci me iubes: at ego nullarum libentius memini. Ex illis enim vel praecipue sentio, quanto opere me diligas, cum sic exegeris mecum, ut solebas cum tuo filio. Nec dissimulo, hoc mihi iucundiores eas fuisse, quod habebam bonam causam, cum summo studio curassem, quod tu curari volebas.

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Proinde, etiam atque etiam rogo, ut mihi semper eadem simplicitate, quotiens cessare videbor (videbor dico, nunquam enim cessabo), convicium facias; quod et ego intellegam a summo amore proficisci, et tu non meruisse me gaudeas. Vale. [vi. 12.]

31. C. Plinius Tacito suo s.

Commendas mihi Iulium Nasonem candidatum. Nasonem mihi? quid si me ipsum? Fero tamen et ignosco. Eundem enim commendassem tibi, si te Romae morante ipse afuissem. Habet hoc sollicitudo, quod omnia necessaria putat. Tu tamen, censeo, alios roges; ego precum tuarum minister, adiutor, particeps ero. Vale. [vi. 9.]

32. C. Plinius Septicio suo s.

Ais quosdam apud te reprehendisse, tamquam amicos meos ex omni occasione ultra modum laudem. Agnosco crimen, amplector etiam. Quid enim honestius culpa benignitatis? Qui sunt tamen isti, qui amicos meos melius norint? Sed ut norint, quid invident mihi felicissimo errore? Ut enim non sint tales, quales a me praedicantur, ego tamen beatus, quod mihi videntur. Igitur ad alios hanc sinistram diligentiam conferant, nec sunt parum multi, qui carpere amicos suos iudicium vocant: mihi numquam persuadebunt ut meos amari a me nimium putem. Vale. [vii. 28.]

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33. C. Plinius Gemino suo s.

Terret me haec tua tam pertinax valetudo, et, quamquam te temperantissimum noverim, vereor tamen, ne quid illi etiam in mores tuos liceat. Proinde moneo, patienter resistas: hoc laudabile, hoc salutare. Admittit humana natura, quod suadeo. Ipse certe sic agere sanus cum meis soleo: 'spero quidem, si forte in adversam valetudinem incidero, nihil me desideraturum vel pudore vel paenitentia dignum: si tamen superaverit morbus, denuntio, ne quid mihi detis, nisi permittentibus medicis, sciatisque, si dederitis, ita vindicaturum, ut solent alii, quae negantur.' Quin etiam cum perustus ardentissima febre, tandem remissus unctusque acciperem a medico potionem, porrexi manum, utque tangeret dixi, admotumque iam labris poculum reddidi. Postea cum vicensimo valetudinis die balineo praepararer, mussantesque medicos repente vidissem, causam requisivi. Responderunt, posse me tuto lavari, non tamen omnino sine aliqua suspicione. 'Quid' inquam 'necesse est?' atque ita spe balinei, cui iam videbar inferri, placide leniterque dimissa ad abstinentiam rursus, non secus ac modo ad balineum, animum vultumque conposui. Quae tibi scripsi, primum, ut te non sine exemplo monerem, deinde, ut in posterum ipse ad eandem temperantiam adstringerer, cum me hac epistula quasi pignore obligassem. Vale. [vii. 1.]

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34. C. Plinius Gemino suo s.

Nostine hos qui, omnium libidinum servi, sic aliorum vitiis irascuntur, quasi invideant, et gravissime puniunt, quos maxime imitantur? cum eos etiam, qui non indigent clementia ullius, nihil magis quam lenitas deceat. Atque ego optimum et emendatissimum existimo, qui ceteris ita ignoscit, tamquam ipse cotidie peccet, ita peccatis abstinet, tamquam nemini ignoscat. Proinde hoc domi, hoc foris, hoc in omni vitae genere teneamus, ut nobis inplacabiles simus, exorabiles istis etiam, qui dare veniam, nisi sibi, nesciunt; mandemusque memoriae, quod vir mitissimus, et ob hoc quoque maximus, Thrasea, crebro dicere solebat, 'qui vitia odit, homines odit.' Quaeris fortasse, quo commotus haec scribam. Nuper quidam—sed melius coram; quamquam ne tunc quidem. Vereor enim, ne id, quod inprobo, insectari, carpere, fere huic, quod cum maxime praecipimus, repugnet. Quisquis ille, qualiscumque, sileatur; quem insignire, exempli nihil, non insignire, humanitatis plurimum refert. Vale. [viii. 22.]

35. C. Plinius Sardo suo s.

Postquam a te recessi, non minus tecum quam cum ad te fui. Legi enim librum tuum, identidem repetens ea maxime (non enim mentiar), quae de me scripsisti. In quibus quidem percopiosus fuisti. Quam multa, quam varia, quam non eadem de eodem, nec tamen diversa, dixisti! Laudem pariter et gratias agam?

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Neutrum satis possum, et, si possem, timerem, ne arrogans esset ob ea laudare, ob quae gratias agerem. Unum illud addam, omnia mihi tanto laudabiliora visa, quanto iucundiora, et tanto iucundiora, quanto laudabiliora erant. Vale. [ix. 31.]

36. C. Plinius Sosio Senecioni suo s.

Magnum proventum poëtarum annus hic attulit. Toto mense Aprili nullus fere dies, quo non recitaret aliquis. Iuvat me, quod vigent studia, proferunt se ingenia hominum et ostentant; tametsi ad audiendum pigre coitur. Plerique in stationibus sedent, tempusque audiendi fabulis conterunt ac subinde sibi nuntiari iubent, an iam recitator intraverit, an dixerit praefationem, an ex magna parte evolverit librum: tunc demum, ac tunc quoque lente cunctanterque, veniunt: nec tamen permanent, sed ante finem recedunt, alii dissimulanter et furtim, alii simpliciter et libere. At Hercule memoria parentum Claudium Caesarem ferunt, cum in palatio spatiaretur audissetque clamorem, causam requisisse, cumque dictum esset, recitare Nonianum, subitum recitanti inopinatumque venisse. Nunc otiosissimus quisque multo ante rogatus et identidem admonitus, aut non venit, aut, si venit, queritur se diem, quia non perdiderit, perdidisse. Sed tanto magis laudandi probandique sunt, quos a scribendi recitandique studio haec auditorum vel desidia vel superbia non retardat. Equidem prope nemini defui. Erant sane plerique amici: neque enim est fere quisquam, qui

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studia, ut non simul et nos amet. His ex causis longius quam destinaveram, tempus in urbe consumpsi. Possum iam repetere secessum et scribere aliquid quod, non recitem, ne videar, quorum recitationibus adfui, non auditor fuisse sed creditor. Nam ut in ceteris rebus, ita in audiendi officio perit gratia, si reposcatur. Vale. [i. 13.]

37. C. Plinius Romano suo s.

Mirificae rei non interfuisti: ne ego quidem; sed me recens fabula excepit. Passennus Paullus, splendidus eques Romanus et in primis eruditus, scribit elegos. Gentilicium hoc illi: est enim municeps Properti atque etiam inter maiores suos Propertium numerat. Is cum recitaret, ita coepit dicere 'Prisce, iubes.' Ad hoc Iavolenus Priscus (aderat enim, ut Paullo amicissimus) 'ego vero non iubeo.' Cogita qui risus hominum, qui ioci. Est omnino Priscus dubiae sanitatis, interest tamen officiis, adhibetur consiliis atque etiam ius civile publice respondet: quo magis quod tunc fecit et ridiculum et notabile fuit. Interim Paullo aliena deliratio aliquantum frigoris attulit. Tam sollicite recitaturis providendum est, non solum ut sint ipsi sani, verum etiam ut sanos adhibeant. Vale. [vi. 15.]

38. C. Plinius Tranquillo suo s.

Explica aestum meum. Audio me male legere, dumtaxat versus: orationes enim commodius, sed tanto minus versus. Cogito ergo, recitaturus familiaribus amicis, experiri libertum meum. Hoc quoque familiare,

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quod elegi, non bene, sed melius lecturum, si tamen non fuerit perturbatus. Est enim tam novus lector quam ego poëta. Ipse nescio, quid illo legente interim faciam; sedeam defixus mutus et similis otioso, an, ut quidam, quae pronuntiabit, murmure oculis manu prosequar. Sed puto, me non minus male saltare, quam legere. Iterum dicam, explica aestum meum, vereque rescribe, num sit melius pessime legere, quam ista vel non facere, vel facere. Vale. [ix. 34.]

39. C. Plinius Plinio Paterno suo s.

Ut animi tui iudicio sic oculorum plurimum tribuo; non quia multum, ne tibi placeas, sed quia tantum quantum ego sapis: quamquam hoc quoque multum est. Omissis iocis, credo decentes esse servos, qui sunt empti mihi ex consilio tuo: superest, ut frugi sint; quod de venalibus melius auribus quam oculis iudicatur. Vale. [i. 21.]

40. C. Plinius Venatori suo s.

Tua vero epistula tanto mihi iucundior fuit, quanto longior erat, praesertim cum de libellis meis tota loqueretur; quos tibi voluptati esse non miror, cum omnia nostra, perinde ac nos, ames. Ipse cum maxime vindemias, graciles quidem, uberiores tamen quam exspectaveram, colligo; si colligere est non numquam decerpere uvam, torculum invisere, degustare de lacu mustum, obrepere urbanis, qui nunc rusticis praesunt, meque notariis et lectoribus reliquerunt. Vale. [ix. 20.]

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41. C. Plinius Baebio Hispano suo s.

Tranquillus, contubernalis meus, vult emere agellum, quem venditare amicus tuus dicitur. Rogo cures, quanti aequum est, emat: ita enim delectabit emisse. Nam mala emptio semper ingrata, eo maxime, quod exprobrare stultitiam domino videtur. In hoc autem agello, si modo adriserit pretium, Tranquilli mei stomachum multa sollicitant, vicinitas urbis, opportunitas viae, mediocritas villae, modus ruris, qui avocet magis quam distringat. Scholasticis porro dominis, ut hic est, sufficit abunde tantum soli, ut relevare caput, reficere oculos, reptare per limitem, unamque semitam terere, omnisque viticulas suas nosse, et numerare arbusculas possint. Haec tibi exposui, quo magis scires, quantum esset ille mihi, ego tibi debiturus, si praediolum istud, quod commendatur his dotibus, tam salubriter emerit, ut paenitentiae locum non relinquat. Vale. [i. 24.]

42. C. Plinius Romatio Firmo suo s.

Municeps tu meus et condiscipulus et ab ineunte aetate contubernalis; pater tuus et matri et avunculo meo, mihi etiam, quantum aetatis diversitas passa est, familiaris; magnae et graves causae cur suscipere, augere dignitatem tuam debeam. Esse autem tibi centum milium censum satis indicat, quod apud nos decurio es. Igitur ut te non decurione solum, verum etiam equite Romano perfruamur, offero tibi ad inplendas equestres facultates trecenta milia nummum.

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Te memorem huius muneris amicitiae nostrae diuturnitas spondet: ego ne illud quidem admoneo, quod admonere deberem, nisi scirem sponte facturum, ut dignitate a me data quam modestissime, ut a me data, utare. Nam sollicitius custodiendus est honor, in quo etiam beneficium amici tuendum est. Vale. [i. 19.]

43. C. Plinius Quintiliano suo s.

Quamvis et ipse sis continentissimus, et filiam tuam ita institueris, ut decebat tuam filiam, Tutili neptem; cum tamen sit nuptura honestissimo viro, Nonio Celeri, cui ratio civilium officiorum necessitatem quandam nitoris inponit, debet secundum conditionem mariti veste comitatu augeri; quibus non quidem augetur dignitas, ornatur tamen et instruitur. Te porro animo beatissimum, modicum facultatibus scio. Itaque partem oneris tui mihi vindico, et tamquam parens alter puellae nostrae, confero quinquaginta milia nummum, plus collaturus, nisi a verecundia tua sola mediocritate munusculi impetrari posse confiderem, ne recusares. Vale. [vi. 32.]

44. C. Plinius Iulio Nasoni suo s.

Tusci grandine excussi; in regione Transpadana summa abundantia, sed par vilitas nuntiatur: solum mihi Laurentinum meum in reditu. Nihil quidem ibi possideo praeter tectum et hortum, statimque arenas; solum tamen mihi in reditu. Ibi enim plurimum scribo; nec agrum, quem non habeo, sed ipsum me studiis

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excolo; ac iam possum tibi, ut aliis in locis horreum plenum, sic ibi scrinium ostendere. Igitur tu quoque, si certa et fructuosa praedia concupiscis, aliquid in hoc litore para. Vale. [iv. 6.]

45. C. Plinius Hispano suo s.

Scribis Robustum, splendidum equitem Romanum, cum Atilio Scauro, amico meo, Ocriculum usque commune iter peregisse, deinde nusquam comparuisse: petis ut Scaurus veniat, nosque, si potest, in aliqua inquisitionis vestigia inducat. Veniet; vereor ne frustra. Suspicor enim tale nescio quid Robusto accidisse, quale aliquando Metilio Crispo, municipi meo. Huic ego ordinem inpetraveram atque etiam proficiscenti quadraginta milia nummum, ad instruendum se ornandumque donaveram, nec postea aut epistulas eius aut aliquem de exitu nuntium accepi. Interceptusne sit a suis, an cum suis, dubium: certe non ipse, non quisquam ex servis eius apparuit. Ut ne in Robusto quoque idem experiamur! Tamen accersamus Scaurum. Demus hoc tuis, demus optimi adulescentis honestissimis precibus, qui pietate mira, mira etiam sagacitate, patrem quaerit. Di faveant, ut sic inveniat ipsum, quemadmodum iam, cum quo fuisset, invenit! Vale. [vi. 25.]

46. C. Plinius Acilio suo s.

Rem atrocem, nec tantum epistula dignam, Largius Macedo, vir praetorius, a servis suis passus est; superbus alioqui dominus et saevus, et qui servisse patrem suum parum, immo nimium meminisset. Lavabatur

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in villa Formiana: repente eum servi circumsistunt: alius fauces invadit, alius os verberat, alius pectus et ventrem; et cum exanimem putarent, abiciunt in fervens pavimentum, ut experirentur, an viveret. Ille, sive quia non sentiebat, sive quia se non sentire simulabat, immobilis et extentus fidem peractae mortis implevit. Tum demum quasi aestu solutus effertur: excipiunt servi fideliores; concubinae cum ululatu et clamore concurrunt. Ita et vocibus excitatus et recreatus loci frigore, sublatis oculis agitatoque corpore vivere se (et iam tutum erat) confitetur. Diffugiunt servi; quorum magna pars comprehensa est, ceteri requiruntur. Ipse paucis diebus aegre focillatus, non sine ultionis solacio decessit, ita vivus vindicatus, ut occisi solent. Vides quot periculis, quot contumeliis, quot ludibriis simus obnoxii; nec est, quod quisquam possit esse securus, quia sit remissus et mitis: non enim iudicio domini sed scelere perimuntur. Verum haec hactenus. Quid praeterea novi? quid? nihil; alioqui subiungerem: nam et charta adhuc superest et dies feriatus patitur plura contexi. Addam, quod opportune de eodem Macedone succurrit. Cum in publico Romae lavaretur, notabilis atque etiam, ut exitus docuit, ominosa res accidit. Eques Romanus, a servo eius, ut transitum daret, manu leviter admonitus, convertit se, nec servum, a quo erat tactus, sed ipsum Macedonem tam graviter palma percussit, ut paene concideret. Ita balineum illi, quasi per gradus quosdam, primum contumeliae locus, deinde exitii fuit. Vale. [iii. 14.]

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47. C. Plinius Suetonio Tranquillo suo s.

Scribis te perterritum somnio vereri, ne quid adversi in actione patiaris: rogas ut dilationem petam et pauculos dies, certe proximum, excusem. Difficile est, sed experiar:

καὶ γάρ τ' ὄναρ ἐκ Διός ἐστιν.

Refert tamen, eventura soleas, an contraria somniare. Mihi reputanti somnium meum, istud, quod times tu, egregiam actionem portendere videtur. Susceperam causam Iuni Pastoris, cum mihi quiescenti visa est socrus mea advoluta genibus, ne agerem obsecrare. Et eram acturus, adulescentulus adhuc; eram in quadruplici iudicio; eram contra potentissimos civitatis atque etiam Caesaris amicos; quae singula excutere mentem mihi post tam triste somnium poterant. Egi tamen λογισάμενος illud

εἷς οἰωνὸς ἄριστος ἀμύνασθαι περὶ πάτρης.

Nam mihi patria (et si quid carius) fides videbatur. Prospere cessit, atque adeo illa actio mihi aures hominum, illa ianuam famae patefecit. Proinde dispice, an tu quoque sub hoc exemplo somnium istud in bonum vertas; aut si tutius putas illud cautissimi cuiusque praeceptum 'quod dubitas ne feceris,' id ipsum rescribe. Ego aliquam stropham inveniam; agamque causam tuam, ut ipsam agere tu, cum voles, possis. Est enim sane alia ratio tua, alia mea fuit. Nam iudicium centumvirale differri nullo modo, istud aegre quidem, sed tamen potest. Vale. [i. 18.]

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48. C. Plinius Triario suo s.

Inpense petis, ut agam causam pertinentem ad curam tuam, pulcram alioqui et famosam. Faciam, sed non gratis. 'Qui fieri potest' inquis 'ut non gratis tu?' Potest: exigam enim mercedem honestiorem gratuito patrocinio. Peto atque etiam paciscor, ut simul agat Cremutius Ruso. Solitum hoc mihi et iam in pluribus claris adulescentibus factitatum. Nam mire concupisco bonos iuvenes ostendere foro, adsignare famae. Quod si cui, praestare Rusoni meo debeo, vel propter natales ipsius, vel propter eximiam mei caritatem; quem magni aestimo in isdem iudiciis, ex isdem etiam partibus conspici, audiri. Obliga me, obliga, ante quam dicat; nam, cum dixerit, gratias ages. Spondeo sollicitudini tuae, spei meae, magnitudini causae suffecturum. Est indolis optimae, brevi producturus alios, si interim provectus fuerit a nobis. Neque enim cuiquam tam clarum statim ingenium, ut possit emergere, nisi illi materia, occasio, fautor etiam commendatorque contingat. Vale. [vi. 23.]

49. C. Plinius Macro suo s.

Quam multum interest, a quo quidque fiat! Eadem enim facta claritate vel obscuritate facientium aut tolluntur altissime aut humillime deprimuntur. Navigabam per Larium nostrum, cum senior amicus ostendit mihi villam, atque etiam cubiculum, quod in lacum prominet: 'ex hoc' inquit 'aliquando municeps nostra cum marito se praecipitavit.' Causam requisivi. Maritus ex diutino morbo ulceribus putrescebat. Uxor ut inspiceret exegit; neque enim quemquam fidelius

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indicaturum, possetne sanari. Vidit, desperavit: hortata est, ut moreretur comesque ipsa mortis, dux immo et exemplum et necessitas fuit. Nam se cum marito ligavit abiecitque in lacum. Quod factum ne mihi quidem, qui municeps, nisi proxime auditum est; non quia minus illo clarissimo Arriae facto, sed quia minor ipsa. Vale. [vi. 24.]

50. C. Plinius Saturnino suo s.

Varie me adfecerunt litterae tuae: nam partim laeta, partim tristia continebant: laeta, quod te in urbe teneri nuntiabant; 'nollem' inquis, sed ego volo: praeterea, quod recitaturum statim, ut venissem, pollicebantur; ago gratias, quod exspector. Triste illud, quod Iulius Valens graviter iacet; quamquam ne hoc quidem triste, si illius utilitatibus aestimetur, cuius interest quam maturissime inexplicabili morbo liberari. Illud plane non triste solum, verum etiam luctuosum, quod Iulius Avitus decessit, dum ex quaestura redit, decessit in navi, procul a fratre amantissimo, procul a matre, a sororibus. Nihil ista ad mortuum pertinent; sed pertinuerunt, cum moreretur; pertinent ad hos qui supersunt. Iam quod in flore primo tantae indolis iuvenis extinctus est, summa consecuturus, si virtutes eius maturuissent. Quo ille studiorum amore flagrabat! quantum legit! quantum etiam scripsit! quae nunc omnia cum ipso sine fructu posteritatis abierunt. Sed quid ego indulgeo dolori? cui si frenos remittas, nulla materia non maxima est. Finem epistulae faciam, ut facere possim etiam lacrimis, quas epistula expressit. Vale. [v. 9.]

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51. C. Plinius Calvisio Rufo suo s.

Adsumo te in consilium rei familiaris, ut soleo. Praedia agris meis vicina, atque etiam inserta, venalia sunt. In his me multa sollicitant; aliqua, nec minora, deterrent. Sollicitat primum ipsa pulcritudo iungendi, deinde quod non minus utile quam voluptuosum posse utraque eadem opera, eodem viatico invisere; sub eodem procuratore ac paene isdem actoribus habere; unam villam colere et ornare, alteram tantum tueri. Inest huic computationi sumptus supellectilis, sumptus atriensium, topiariorum, fabrorum atque etiam venatorii instrumenti; quae plurimum refert, unum in locum conferas, an in diversa dispergas. Contra vereor, ne sit incautum, rem tam magnam isdem tempestatibus, isdem casibus subdere: tutius videtur incerta fortunae possessionum varietatibus experiri. Habet etiam multum iucunditatis soli caelique mutatio, ipsaque illa peregrinatio inter sua. Iam, quod deliberationis nostrae caput est, agri sunt fertiles, pingues, aquosi; constant campis, vineis, silvis, quae materiam et ex ea reditum sicut modicum, ita statum, praestant. Sed haec felicitas terrae inbecillis cultoribus fatigatur. Nam possessor prior saepius vendidit pignora, et dum reliqua colonorum minuit ad tempus, vires in posterum exhausit, quarum defectione rursus reliqua creverunt. Sunt ergo instruendi eo pluris, quod frugi, mancipiis: nam nec ipse usquam vinctos habeo, nec ibi quisquam. Superest ut scias, quanti videantur posse emi; sestertio tricies: non quia non aliquando quinquagies fuerint,

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verum et hac paenuria colonorum et communi temporis iniquitate, ut reditus agrorum, sic etiam pretium retro abiit. Quaeris an hoc ipsum tricies facile colligere possimus? sum quidem prope totus in praediis, aliquid tamen fenero, nec molestum erit mutuari; accipiam a socru, cuius arca non secus ac mea utor. Proinde hoc te non moveat, si cetera non refragantur, quae velim quam diligentissime examines. Nam cum in omnibus rebus, tum in disponendis facultatibus plurimum tibi et usus et providentiae superest. Vale. [iii. 19.]

52. C. Plinius Paulino suo s.

Nec tuae naturae est, translaticia haec et quasi publica officia a familiaribus amicis contra ipsorum commodum exigere, et ego te constantius amo, quam ut verear, ne aliter ac velim accipias, nisi te Kalendis statim consulem videro; praesertim cum me necessitas locandorum praediorum, plures annos ordinatura, detineat, in qua mihi nova consilia sumenda sunt. Nam priore lustro, quamquam post magnas remissiones, reliqua creverunt: inde plerisque nulla iam cura minuendi aeris alieni, quod desperant posse persolvi; rapiunt etiam consumuntque, quod natum est, ut qui iam putent, se non sibi parcere. Occurrendum ergo augescentibus vitiis et medendum est. Medendi una ratio, si non nummo, sed partibus locem, ac deinde ex meis aliquos, operis exactores, custodes fructibus ponam; et alioqui nullum iustius genus reditus, quam quod terra, caelum, annus refert. At hoc magnam

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fidem, acres oculos, numerosas manus poscit: experiundum tamen, et, quasi in veteri morbo, quaelibet mutationis auxilia temptanda sunt. Vides, quam non delicata me causa obire primum consulatus tui diem non sinat; quem tamen hic quoque, ut praesens, votis, gaudio, gratulatione celebrabo. Vale. [ix. 37.]

53. C. Plinius Cornelio Prisco suo s.

Audio Valerium Martialem decessisse et moleste fero. Erat homo ingeniosus, acutus, acer, et qui plurimum in scribendo et salis haberet, et fellis, nec candoris minus. Prosecutus eram viatico secedentem: dederam hoc amicitiae; dederam etiam versiculis, quos de me composuit. Fuit moris antiqui, eos, qui vel singulorum laudes, vel urbium scripserant, aut honoribus, aut pecunia ornare; nostris vero temporibus, ut alia speciosa et egregia, ita hoc in primis exolevit. Nam postquam desimus, facere laudanda, laudari quoque ineptum putamus. Quaeris, qui sint versiculi, quibus gratiam rettuli? Remitterem te ad ipsum volumen, nisi quosdam tenerem: tu, si placuerint hi, ceteros in libro requires. Adloquitur Musam, mandat, ut domum meam Esquilis quaerat, adeat reverenter:

> sed ne tempore non tuo disertam
> pulses ebria ianuam videto:
> totos dat tetricae dies Minervae,
> dum centum studet auribus virorum
> hoc, quod saecula posterique possint
> Arpinis quoque comparare chartis.

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seras tutior ibis ad lucernas:
haec hora est tua, cum furit Lyaeus,
cum regnat rosa, cum madent capilli:
tunc me vel rigidi legant Catones.

Meritone eum, qui haec de me scripsit, et tunc dimisi amicissime, et nunc, ut amicissimum, defunctum esse doleo? Dedit enim mihi, quantum maximum potuit; daturus amplius, si potuisset. Tametsi quid homini potest dari maius quam gloria et laus et aeternitas? At non erunt aeterna quae scripsit: non erunt fortasse, ille tamen scripsit, tamquam essent futura. Vale. [iii. 21.]

54. C. Plinius Annio Severo suo s.

Ex hereditate, quae mihi obvenit, emi proxime Corinthium signum, modicum quidem, sed festivum et expressum, quantum ego sapio, qui fortasse in omni re, in hac certe perquam exiguum sapio: hoc tamen signum ego quoque intellego. Est enim nudum, nec aut vitia, si qua sunt, celat aut laudes parum ostentat: effingit senem stantem; ossa, musculi, nervi, venae, rugae etiam ut spirantis apparent; rari et cedentes capilli, lata frons, contracta facies, exile collum; pendent lacerti, papillae iacent, venter recessit. A tergo quoque eadem aetas ut a tergo. Aes ipsum, quantum verus color indicat, vetus et antiquum. Talia denique omnia ut possint artificum oculos tenere, delectare imperitorum. Quod me, quamquam tirunculum, sollicitavit ad emendum. Emi autem, non ut haberem

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domi (neque enim ullum adhuc Corinthium domi habeo), verum ut in patria nostra, celebri loco ponerem, ac potissimum in Iovis templo: videtur enim dignum templo, dignum deo donum. Tu ergo, ut soles omnia, quae a me tibi iniunguntur, suscipe hanc curam, et iam nunc iube basim fieri, ex quo voles marmore, quae nomen meum honoresque capiat, si hos quoque putabis addendos. Ego signum ipsum, ut primum invenero aliquem, qui non gravetur, mittam tibi; vel ipse, quod mavis, adferam mecum. Destino enim, si tamen officii ratio permiserit, excurrere isto. Gaudes, quod me venturum esse polliceor, sed contrahes frontem, cum adiecero, ad paucos dies: neque enim diutius abesse me eadem haec, quae nondum exire patiuntur. Vale. [iii. 6.]

55. C. Plinius Marcellino suo s.

Omnia mihi studia, omnes curas, omnia avocamenta exemit, excussit, eripuit dolor, quem ex morte Iuni Aviti gravissimum cepi. Latum clavum in domo mea induerat: suffragio meo adiutus in petendis honoribus fuerat: ad hoc ita me diligebat, ita verebatur, ut me formatore morum, me quasi magistro uteretur. Rarum hoc in adulescentibus nostris. Nam quotus quisque vel aetati alterius, vel auctoritati, ut minor cedit? Statim sapiunt, statim sciunt omnia, neminem verentur, imitantur neminem atque ipsi sibi exempla sunt. Sed non Avitus, cuius haec praecipua prudentia,

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quod alios prudentiores arbitrabatur, haec praecipua eruditio, quod discere volebat. Semper ille aut de studiis aliquid, aut de officiis vitae consulebat, semper ita recedebat, ut melior factus; et erat factus vel eo, quod audierat, vel quod omnino quaesierat. Quod ille obsequium Serviano, exactissimo viro, praestitit! quem legatum tribunus ita et intellexit et cepit, ut ex Germania in Pannoniam transeuntem, non ut commilito, sed ut comes adsectatorque sequeretur. Qua industria, qua modestia quaestor consulibus suis (et plures habuit) non minus iucundus et gratus, quam utilis fuit! Quo discursu, qua vigilantia, hanc ipsam aedilitatem, cui praereptus est, petiit! quod vel maxime dolorem meum exulcerat. Obversantur oculis cassi labores et infructuosae preces et honor, quem meruit tantum. Redit animo ille latus clavus in penatibus meis sumptus; redeunt illa prima, illa postrema suffragia mea, illi sermones, illae consultationes. Adficior adulescentia ipsius; adficior necessitudinum casu. Erat illi grandis natu parens, erat uxor, quam ante annum virginem acceperat; erat filia, quam paulo ante sustulerat. Tot spes, tot gaudia dies unus in adversa convertit. Modo designatus aedilis, recens maritus, recens pater, intactum honorem, orbam matrem, viduam uxorem, filiam pupillam ignaram avi, patris reliquit. Accedit lacrimis meis, quod absens et inpendentis mali nescius pariter aegrum, pariter decessisse cognovi, ne gravissimo dolori tempore consuescerem. In tantis tormentis eram, cum scriberem haec, scriberem sola: neque enim nunc aliud aut cogitare aut loqui possum. Vale. [viii. 23.]

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56. C. Plinius Marcellino suo s.

Tristissimus haec tibi scribo, Fundani nostri filia minore defuncta, qua puella nihil umquam festivius, amabilius, nec modo longiore vita sed prope immortalitate dignius vidi. Nondum annos quattuordecim impleverat, et iam illi anilis prudentia, matronalis gravitas erat, et tamen suavitas puellaris cum virginali verecundia. Ut illa patris cervicibus inhaerebat! ut nos amicos paternos et amanter et modeste complectebatur! ut nutrices, ut paedagogos, ut praeceptores, pro suo quemque officio, diligebat! quam studiose, quam intellegenter lectitabat! ut parce custoditeque ludebat! Qua illa temperantia, qua patientia, qua etiam constantia novissimam valetudinem tulit! Medicis obsequebatur; sororem, patrem adhortabatur, ipsamque se destitutam corporis viribus vigore animi sustinebat. Duravit hic illi usque ad extremum, nec aut spatio valetudinis aut metu mortis infractus est, quo plures gravioresque nobis causas relinqueret et desiderii et doloris. O triste plane acerbumque funus! o morte ipsa mortis tempus indignius! iam destinata erat egregio iuveni, iam electus nuptiarum dies, iam nos vocati. Quod gaudium quo maerore mutatum est! Non possum exprimere verbis, quantum animo vulnus acceperim, cum audivi Fundanum ipsum, ut multa luctuosa dolor invenit, praecipientem, quod in vestes, margarita, gemmas fuerat erogaturus, hoc in tus et unguenta et odores inpenderetur. Est quidem ille eruditus et sapiens, ut qui se ab ineunte

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aetate altioribus studiis artibusque dediderit, sed nunc omnia, quae audiit saepe, quae dixit, aspernatur expulsisque virtutibus aliis, pietatis est totus. Ignosces, laudabis etiam, si cogitaveris, quid amiserit. Amisit enim filiam, quae non minus mores eius, quam os vultumque referebat, totumque patrem mira similitudine exscripserat. Proinde si quas ad eum de dolore tam iusto litteras mittes, memento adhibere solacium, non quasi castigatorium et nimis forte, sed molle et humanum. Quod ut facilius admittat, multum faciet medii temporis spatium. Ut enim crudum adhuc vulnus medentium manus reformidat, deinde patitur atque ultro requirit, sic recens animi dolor consolationes reicit ac refugit, mox desiderat et clementer admotis adquiescit. Vale. [v. 16.]

57. C. Plinius Maximo suo s.

Recte fecisti quod gladiatorium munus Veronensibus nostris promisisti, a quibus olim amaris, suspiceris, ornaris. Inde etiam uxorem carissimam tibi, et probatissimam, habuisti, cuius memoriae aut opus aliquod, aut spectaculum, atque hoc potissimum, quod maxime funeri, debebatur. Praeterea tanto consensu rogabaris, ut negare non constans, sed durum videretur. Illud quoque egregie, quod tam facilis, tam liberalis in edendo fuisti. Nam per haec etiam magnus animus ostenditur. Vellem Africanae, quas coëmeras plurimas, ad praefinitum diem occurrissent: sed licet cessaverint illae tempestate detentae, tu tamen meruisti, ut acceptum tibi fieret, quod, quo minus exhiberes, non per te stetit. Vale. [vi. 34.]

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58. C. Plinius Calvisio suo s.

Omne hoc tempus inter pugillares ac libellos iucundissima quiete transmisi. 'Quemadmodum' inquis 'in urbe potuisti?' Circenses erant, quo genere spectaculi ne levissime quidem teneor. Nihil novum, nihil varium, nihil quod non semel spectasse sufficiat. Quo magis miror, tot milia virorum tam pueriliter identidem cupere currentes equos, insistentes curribus homines, videre. Si tamen aut velocitate equorum, aut hominum arte traherentur, esset ratio non nulla: nunc favent panno! pannum amant, et si in ipso cursu medioque certamine hic color illuc, ille huc transferatur, studium favorque transibit, et repente agitatores illos, equos illos, quos procul noscitant, quorum clamitant nomina, relinquent. Tanta gratia, tanta auctoritas in una vilissima tunica! mitto apud vulgus, quod vilius tunica; sed apud quosdam graves homines; quos ego cum recordor in re inani, frigida, adsidua tam insatiabiliter desidere, capio aliquam voluptatem, quod hac voluptate non capior. Ac per hos dies libentissime otium meum in litteris conloco, quos alii otiosissimis occupationibus perdunt. Vale. [ix. 6.]

59. C. Plinius Sempronio Rufo suo s.

Interfui Principis optimi cognitioni, in consilium adsumptus. Gymnicus agon apud Viennenses ex cuiusdam testamento celebrabatur. Hunc Trebonius Rufinus, vir egregius nobisque amicus, in duumviratu tollendum abolendumque curavit. Negabatur ex auctoritate publica fecisse. Egit ipse causam non minus feliciter quam diserte. Commendabat actionem, quod

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tamquam homo Romanus et bonus civis in negotio suo mature et graviter loquebatur. Cum sententiae perrogarentur, dixit Iunius Mauricus, quo viro nihil firmius, nihil verius, non esse restituendum Viennensibus agona: adiecit 'vellem etiam Romae tolli posset.' Constanter, inquis, et fortiter. Quidni? sed hoc a Maurico novum non est. Idem apud imperatorem Nervam non minus fortiter. Cenabat Nerva cum paucis. Veiento proximus atque etiam in sinu recumbebat. Dixi omnia, cum hominem nominavi. Incidit sermo de Catullo Messalino, qui luminibus orbatus ingenio saevo mala caecitatis addiderat: non verebatur, non erubescebat, non miserebatur; quo saepius a Domitiano non secus ac tela, quae et ipsa caeca et inprovida feruntur, in optimum quemque contorquebatur. De huius nequitia sanguinariisque sententiis in commune omnes super cenam loquebantur, cum ipse imperator 'quid putamus passurum fuisse, si viveret?' et Mauricus 'nobiscum cenaret.' Longius abii, libens tamen. Placuit agona tolli, qui mores Viennensium infecerat, ut noster hic omnium. Nam Viennensium vitia intra ipsos residunt, nostra late vagantur; utque in corporibus sic in imperio gravissimus est morbus qui a capite diffunditur. Vale. [iv. 22.]

60. C. Plinius Calvisio suo s.

Alii in praedia sua proficiscuntur, ut locupletiores revertantur, ego, ut pauperior. Vendideram vindemias, certatim negotiatoribus ementibus. Invitabat pretium, et quod tunc, et quod fore videbatur. Spes fefellit. Erat expeditum omnibus remittere aequaliter, sed non

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satis aequum. Mihi autem egregium in primis videtur, ut foris, ita domi, ut in magnis, ita in parvis, ut in alienis, ita in suis, agitare iustitiam. Nam si paria peccata, pares etiam laudes. Itaque omnibus quidem, ne quis mihi non donatus abiret, partem octavam pretii, quo quis emerat, concessi: deinde his, qui amplissimas summas emptionibus occupaverant, separatim consului. Nam et me magis iuverant et maius ipsi fecerant damnum. Igitur his, qui pluris quam decem milibus emerant, ad illam communem et quasi publicam octavam addidi decimam eius summae, qua decem milia excesserant. Vereor ne parum expresserim; apertius calculos ostendam. Si qui forte quindecim milibus emerant, hi et quindecim milium octavam et quinque milium decimam tulerunt. Praeterea, cum reputarem, quosdam ex debito aliquantum, quosdam aliquid, quosdam nihil reposuisse, nequaquam verum arbitrabar, quos non aequasset fides solutionis, hos benignitate remissionis aequare. Rursus ergo his, qui solverant, eius quod solverant decimam remisi. Per hoc enim aptissime et in praeteritum singulis pro cuiusque merito gratia referri, et in futurum omnes, cum ad emendum, tum etiam ad solvendum, allici videbantur. Magno mihi seu ratio haec, seu facilitas stetit, sed fuit tanti. Nam regione tota et novitas remissionis et forma laudatur. Ex ipsis etiam quos non una, ut dicitur, pertica, sed distincte, gradatimque tractavi, quanto quis melior et probior, tanto mihi obligatior abiit, expertus non esse apud me

Ἐν δὲ ἰῇ τιμῇ ἠμὲν κακὸς ἠδὲ καὶ ἐσθλός.

Vale. [viii. 2.]

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61. C. Plinius Maximo suo s.

O diem laetum! adhibitus in consilium a praefecto urbis, audivi ex diverso agentes summae spei, summae indolis iuvenes, Fuscum Salinatorem et Ummidium Quadratum; egregium par, nec modo temporibus nostris, sed litteris ipsis ornamento futurum. Mira utrique probitas, constantia salva, decorus habitus, os Latinum, vox virilis, tenax memoria, magnum ingenium, iudicium aequale; quae singula mihi voluptati fuerunt, atque inter haec illud, quod et ipsi me ut rectorem, ut magistrum intuebantur et iis, qui audiebant, me aemulari, meis instare vestigiis videbantur. O diem (repetam enim) laetum, notandumque mihi candidissimo calculo! Quid enim aut publice laetius, quam clarissimos iuvenes nomen et famam ex studiis petere, aut mihi optatius, quam me ad recta tendentibus, quasi exemplar esse propositum? Quod gaudium, ut perpetuo capiam, deos oro: ab isdem, teste te, peto, ut omnes qui me imitari tanti putabunt, meliores esse quam me velint. Vale. [vi. 11.]

62. C. Plinius Paterno suo s.

Confecerunt me infirmitates meorum, mortes etiam, et quidem iuvenum. Solacia duo nequaquam paria tanto dolori, solacia tamen: unum facilitas manumittendi; videor enim non omnino inmaturos perdidisse, quos iam liberos perdidi; alterum, quod permitto servis quoque quasi testamenta facere, eaque ut legitima

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custodio. Mandant, rogantque, quod visum; pareo ut iussus. Dividunt, donant, relinquunt, dumtaxat intra domum. Nam servis res publica quaedam et quasi civitas domus est. Sed quamquam his solaciis adquiescam, debilitor et frangor eadem illa humanitate, quae me, ut hoc ipsum permitterem, induxit. Non ideo tamen velim durior fieri. Nec ignoro alios eiusmodi casus nihil amplius vocare quam damnum, eoque sibi magnos homines et sapientes videri. Qui an magni sapientesque sint nescio, homines non sunt. Hominis est enim adfici dolore, sentire, resistere tamen et solacia admittere, non solaciis non egere. Verum de his plura fortasse quam debui, sed pauciora quam volui. Est enim quaedam etiam dolendi voluptas, praesertim si in amici sinu defleas, apud quem lacrimis tuis vel laus sit parata vel venia. Vale. [viii. 16.]

63. C. Plinius Maximo suo s.

Nuper me cuiusdam amici languor admonuit, optimos esse nos, dum infirmi sumus. Quem enim infirmum aut avaritia, aut libido sollicitat? Non amoribus servit, non adpetit honores, opes neglegit et quantulumcumque, ut relicturus, satis habet. Tunc deos, tunc hominem esse se meminit; invidet nemini, neminem miratur, neminem despicit ac ne sermonibus quidem malignis aut attendit aut alitur: balinea imaginatur et fontes. Haec summa curarum, summa votorum, mollemque in posterum et pinguem, si contingat evadere, hoc est innoxiam beatamque destinat vitam.

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Possum ergo quod plurimis verbis, plurimis etiam voluminibus philosophi docere conantur ipse breviter tibi mihique praecipere, ut tales esse sani perseveremus, quales nos futuros profitemur infirmi. Vale. [vii. 26.]

64. C. Plinius Maximo suo s.

Frequenter agenti mihi evenit, ut centumviri, cum diu se intra iudicum auctoritatem gravitatemque tenuissent, omnes repente, quasi victi coactique, consurgerent laudarentque; frequenter e senatu famam, qualem maxime optaveram, rettuli: numquam tamen maiorem cepi voluptatem, quam nuper ex sermone Corneli Taciti. Narrabat sedisse se cum quodam Circensibus proximis: hunc post varios eruditosque sermones requisisse 'Italicus es an provincialis?' se respondisse 'nosti me, et quidem ex studiis.' Ad hoc illum 'Tacitus es an Plinius?' Exprimere non possum, quam sit iucundum mihi, quod nomina nostra, quasi litterarum propria, non hominum, litteris redduntur; quod uterque nostrum his etiam ex studiis notus, quibus aliter ignotus est. Accidit aliud ante pauculos dies simile. Recumbebat mecum vir egregius, Fadius Rufinus; super eum municeps ipsius, qui illo die primum venerat in urbem; cui Rufinus, demonstrans me, 'vides hunc?' Multa deinde de studiis nostris. Et ille 'Plinius est' inquit. Verum fatebor, capio magnum laboris mei fructum. An, si Demosthenes iure laetatus est, quod illum anus Attica ita noscitavit, οὗτός ἐστι Δημοσθένης, ego celebritate nominis mei gaudere non debeo? Ego vero et gaudeo et gaudere me dico.

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Neque enim vereor, ne iactantior videar, cum de me aliorum iudicium, non meum profero, praesertim apud te, qui nec ullius invides laudibus et faves nostris. Vale. [ix. 23.]

65. C. Plinius Gemino suo s.

Laudas mihi et frequenter praesens et nunc per epistulas Nonium tuum, quod sit liberalis in quosdam: et ipse laudo, si tamen non in hos solos. Volo enim eum, qui sit vere liberalis, tribuere patriae, propinquis, adfinibus, amicis, sed amicis dico pauperibus; non ut isti, qui iis potissimum donant, qui donare maxime possunt. Hos ego viscatis hamatisque muneribus non sua promere puto, sed aliena corripere. Sunt ingenio simili, qui, quod huic donant, auferunt illi, famamque liberalitatis avaritia petunt. Primum est autem suo esse contentum; deinde, quos praecipue scias indigere, sustentantem foventemque, orbe quodam societatis ambire. Quae cuncta si facit iste, usquequaque laudandus est; si unum aliquid, minus quidem, laudandus tamen. Tam rarum est etiam inperfectae liberalitatis exemplar. Ea invasit homines habendi cupido, ut possideri magis quam possidere videantur. Vale. [ix. 30.]

66. C. Plinius Statio Sabino suo s.

Scribis mihi Sabinam, quae nos reliquit heredes, Modestum servum suum nusquam liberum esse iussisse; eidem tamen sic adscripsisse legatum 'Modesto quem liberum esse iussi.' Quaeris quid sentiam. Contuli cum peritis iuris. Convenit inter omnes, nec libertatem

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deberi, quia non sit data, nec legatum, quia servo suo dederit. Sed mihi manifestus error videtur, ideoque puto nobis, quasi scripserit Sabina, faciendum, quod ipsa, scripsisse se, credidit. Confido accessurum te sententiae meae, cum religiosissime soleas, custodire defunctorum voluntatem, quam bonis heredibus intellexisse, pro iure est. Neque enim minus apud nos honestas, quam apud alios necessitas valet. Moretur ergo in libertate, sinentibus nobis; fruatur legato, quasi omnia diligentissime caverit. Cavit enim, quae heredes bene elegit. Vale. [iv. 10.]

67. C. Plinius Albino suo s.

Cum venissem in socrus meae villam Alsiensem, quae aliquando Rufi Vergini fuit, ipse mihi locus optimi illius et maximi viri desiderium non sine dolore renovavit. Hunc enim colere secessum, atque etiam senectutis suae nidulum vocare, consueverat. Quocumque me contulissem, illum animus, illum oculi requirebant. Libuit etiam monimentum eius videre, et vidisse paenituit. Est enim adhuc imperfectum, nec difficultas operis in causa, modici ac potius exigui, sed inertia eius, cui cura mandata est. Subit indignatio cum miseratione, post decimum mortis annum, reliquias neglectumque cinerem sine titulo, sine nomine iacere, cuius memoria orbem terrarum gloria pervagetur. At ille mandaverat, caveratque, ut divinum illud et immortale factum versibus inscriberetur:

hic situs est Rufus, pulso qui Vindice quondam
imperium adseruit non sibi sed patriae.

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Tam rara in amicitiis fides, tam parata oblivio mortuorum, ut ipsi nobis debeamus etiam conditoria extruere, omniaque heredum officia praesumere. Nam cui non est verendum, quod videmus accidisse Verginio? cuius iniuriam, ut indigniorem, sic etiam notiorem, ipsius claritas facit. Vale. [vi. 10.]

68. C. Plinius Calvisio suo s.

Assem para et accipe auream fabulam; fabulas immo, nam me priorum nova admonuit, nec refert, a qua potissimum incipiam. Verania Pisonis graviter iacebat, huius dico Pisonis, quem Galba adoptavit. Ad hanc Regulus venit. Primum impudentiam hominis qui venerit ad aegram, cuius marito inimicissimus, ipsi invisissimus fuerat. Esto, si venit tantum: at ille etiam proximus toro sedit, quo die, qua hora nata esset, interrogavit. Ubi audiit, componit vultum, intendit oculos, movet labra, agitat digitos, computat; nihil: ut diu miseram expectatione suspendit, 'habes' inquit 'climactericum tempus, sed evades. Quod ut tibi magis liqueat, haruspicem consulam, quem sum frequenter expertus.' Nec mora; sacrificium facit, adfirmat exta cum siderum significatione congruere. Illa, ut in periculo credula, poscit codicillos, legatum Regulo scribit: mox ingravescit: clamat moriens hominem nequam, perfidum ac plus etiam quam periurum, qui sibi per salutem filii peierasset. Facit hoc Regulus non minus scelerate quam frequenter, quod iram deorum, quos ipse cotidie fallit, in caput infelicis pueri detestatur.

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Velleius Blaesus, ille locuples consularis, novissima valitudine conflictabatur: cupiebat mutare testamentum. Regulus, qui speraret aliquid ex novis tabulis, quia nuper captare eum coeperat, medicos hortari, rogare, quoquo modo spiritum homini prorogarent. Postquam signatum est testamentum, mutat personam, vertit adlocutionem, isdemque medicis 'quousque miserum cruciatis? quid invidetis bona morte, cui dare vitam non potestis?' Moritur Blaesus, et tamquam omnia audisset, Regulo ne tantulum quidem.

Sufficiunt duae fabulae, an scholastica lege tertiam poscis? est unde fiat. Aurelia, ornata femina, signatura testamentum, sumpserat pulcerrimas tunicas. Regulus cum venisset ad signandum, 'rogo' inquit 'has mihi leges.' Aurelia ludere hominem putabat, ille serio instabat: ne multa, coëgit mulierem aperire tabulas ac sibi tunicas, quas erat induta, legare: observavit scribentem, inspexit an scripsisset. Et Aurelia quidem vivit, ille tamen istud, tamquam morituram, coëgit. Et hic hereditates, hic legata, quasi mereatur, accipit. Ἀλλὰ τί διατείνομαι in ea civitate, in qua iam pridem non minora praemia, immo maiora, nequitia et improbitas quam pudor et virtus habent? Aspice Regulum, qui ex paupere et tenui ad tantas opes per flagitia processit, ut ipse mihi dixerit, cum consuleret, quam cito sestertium sescenties impleturus esset, invenisse se exta duplicia, quibus portendi milies et ducenties habiturum. Et habebit, si modo, ut coepit, aliena testamenta, quod est inprobissimum genus falsi, ipsis, quorum sunt illa, dictaverit. Vale. [ii. 20.]

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69. C. Plinius Attio Clementi suo s.

Regulus filium amisit, hoc uno malo indignus, quod nescio an malum putet. Erat puer acris ingenii sed ambigui, qui tamen posset recta sectari, si patrem non referret. Hunc Regulus emancipavit, ut heres matris existeret; mancipatum (ita vulgo ex moribus hominis loquebantur) foeda et insolita parentibus indulgentiae simulatione captabat. Incredibile, sed Regulum cogita. Amissum tamen luget insane. Habebat puer mannulos multos et iunctos et solutos; habebat canes maiores minoresque; habebat luscinias, psittacos, merulas: omnes Regulus circa rogum trucidavit. Nec dolor erat ille, sed ostentatio doloris. Convenitur ad eum mira celebritate. Cuncti detestantur, oderunt, et quasi probent, quasi diligant, cursant, frequentant, utque breviter, quod sentio, enuntiem, in Regulo demerendo, Regulum imitantur. Tenet se trans Tiberim in hortis, in quibus latissimum solum porticibus inmensis, ripam statuis suis occupavit, ut est in summa avaritia sumptuosus, in summa infamia gloriosus. Vexat ergo civitatem insaluberrimo tempore, et quod vexat solacium putat. Dicit, se velle ducere uxorem: hoc quoque, sicut alia, perverse. Audies brevi nuptias lugentis, nuptias senis; quorum alterum immaturum, alterum serum est. Unde hoc augurer, quaeris: non quia adfirmat ipse, quo mendacius nihil est, sed quia certum est, Regulum esse facturum, quidquid fieri non oportet. Vale. [iv. 2.]

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70. C. Plinius Catio Lepido suo s.

Saepe tibi dico, inesse vim Regulo. Mirum est, quam efficiat, in quod incubuit. Placuit ei lugere filium; luget ut nemo; placuit statuas eius et imagines quam plurimas facere; hoc omnibus officinis agit; illum coloribus, illum cera, illum aere, illum argento, illum auro, ebore, marmore effingit. Ipse vero nuper, adhibito ingenti auditorio, librum de vita eius recitavit, de vita pueri: recitavit tamen; eundem in exemplaria mille transcriptum per totam Italiam provinciasque dimisit. Scripsit publice, ut a decurionibus eligeretur vocalissimus aliquis ex ipsis, qui legeret eum populo: factum est. Hanc ille vim, seu quo alio nomine vocanda est intentio, quidquid velis, obtinendi, si ad potiora vertisset, quantum boni efficere potuisset! Quamquam minor vis bonis quam malis inest, ac sicut ἀμαθία μὲν θράσος λογισμὸς δὲ ὄκνον φέρει, ita recta ingenia debilitat verecundia, perversa confirmat audacia. Exemplo est Regulus. Imbecillum latus, os confusum, haesitans lingua, tardissima inventio, memoria nulla, nihil denique praeter ingenium insanum; et tamen eo impudentia ipsoque illo furore pervenit, ut orator habeatur. Itaque Herennius Senecio mirifice Catonis illud de oratore in hunc e contrario vertit 'orator est vir malus, dicendi imperitus.' Non, me Hercule, Cato ipse tam bene verum oratorem, quam hic Regulum expressit. Habesne quo tali epistulae parem gratiam referas? habes, si scripseris, num aliquis in municipio vestro ex sodalibus meis, num etiam ipse tu hunc luctuosum

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Reguli librum, ut circulator, in foro legeris, ἐπάρας scilicet, ut ait Demosthenes, τὴν φωνὴν καὶ γεγηθώς καὶ λαρυγγίζων. Est enim tam ineptus, ut risum magis possit exprimere quam gemitum: credas non de puero scriptum, sed a puero. Vale. [iv. 7.]

71. C. Plinius Messio Maximo suo s.

Meministine, te saepe legisse, quantas contentiones excitarit lex tabellaria, quantumque ipsi latori vel gloriae, vel reprehensionis attulerit? At nunc in senatu, sine ulla dissensione, hoc idem, ut optimum, placuit. Omnes comitiorum die tabellas postulaverunt. Excesseramus sane manifestis illis apertisque suffragiis licentiam contionum. Non tempus loquendi, non tacendi modestia, non denique sedendi dignitas custodiebatur. Magni undique dissonique clamores, procurrebant omnes cum suis candidatis, multa agmina in medio, multique circuli et indecora confusio: adeo desciveramus a consuetudine parentum, apud quos omnia disposita, moderata, tranquilla, maiestatem loci pudoremque retinebant. Supersunt senes, ex quibus audire soleo hunc ordinem comitiorum: citato nomine candidati silentium summum. Dicebat ipse pro se, explicabat vitam suam, testes et laudatores dabat, vel eum sub quo militaverat, vel eum, cui quaestor fuerat, vel utrumque, si poterat: addebat quosdam ex suffragatoribus: illi graviter et paucis loquebantur. Plus hoc quam preces proderat. Nonnumquam candidatus aut natales competitoris, aut annos, aut etiam mores arguebat. Audiebat senatus gravitate censoria. Ita

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saepius digni, quam gratiosi prevalebant. Quae nunc immodico favore corrupta, ad tacita suffragia, quasi ad remedium decucurrerunt; quod interim plane remedium fuit: erat enim novum et subitum. Sed vereor ne, procedente tempore, ex ipso remedio vitia nascantur. Est enim periculum, ne tacitis suffragiis impudentia inrepat. Nam quotocuique eadem honestatis cura secreto, quae palam? Multi famam, conscientiam pauci verentur. Sed nimis cito de futuris: interim beneficio tabellarum habebimus magistratus, qui maxime fieri debuerunt. Nam ut in reciperatoriis iudiciis, sic nos in his comitiis, quasi repente adprehensi, sinceri iudices fuimus. Haec tibi scripsi, primum, ut aliquid novi scriberem, deinde, ut nonnumquam de re publica loquerer, cuius materiae nobis quanto rarior quam veteribus occasio, tanto minus omittenda est. Et Hercule quousque illa vulgaria 'quid agis? ecquid commode vades?' Habeant nostrae quoque litterae aliquid non humile, nec sordidum, nec privatis rebus inclusum. Sunt quidem cuncta sub unius arbitrio, qui pro utilitate communi solus omnium curas laboresque suscepit; quidam tamen salubri temperamento ad nos quoque, velut rivi ex illo benignissimo fonte decurrunt, quos et haurire ipsi et absentibus amicis quasi ministrare epistulis possumus. Vale. [iii. 20.]

72. C. Plinius Messio Maximo suo s.

Scripseram tibi verendum esse, ne ex tacitis suffragiis vitium aliquod existeret. Factum est. Proximis comitiis in quibusdam tabellis multa iocularia atque etiam

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foeda dictu; in una vero pro candidatorum nominibus suffragatorum nomina inventa sunt. Excanduit senatus, magnoque clamore ei, qui scripsisset, iratum principem est comprecatus. Ille tamen fefellit et latuit, fortasse etiam inter indignantes fuit. Quid hunc putamus domi facere, qui in tanta re, tam serio tempore, tam scurriliter ludat, qui denique omnino in senatu dicax et urbanus et bellus est? Tantum licentiae pravis ingeniis adicit illa fiducia 'quis enim sciet?' Poposcit tabellam, stilum accepit, demisit caput, neminem veretur, se contemnit. Inde ista ludibria scena et pulpito digna. Quo te vertas? quae remedia conquiras? ubique vitia remediis fortiora. Ἀλλὰ ταῦτα τῷ ὑπὲρ ἡμᾶς μελήσει, cui multum cotidie vigiliarum, multum laboris adicit haec nostra iners et tamen effrenata petulantia. Vale. [iv. 25.]

73. C. Plinius Rufo suo s.

Descenderam in basilicam Iuliam, auditurus, quibus proxima comperendinatione respondere debebam. Sedebant iudices, decemviri venerant, obversabantur advocati; silentium longum, tandem a praetore nuntius. Dimittuntur centumviri, eximitur dies, me gaudente, qui numquam ita paratus sum, ut non mora laedat. Causa dilationis Nepos praetor, qui legibus alieno Proposuerat breve edictum, admonebat accusatores admonebat reos, exsecuturum se, quae senatus consulta accipiat, continerentur. Suberat edicto senatus consultum, hoc omnes, quisquis negotium haberet, sumite, qui

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quam agerent, iubebantur nihil se ob advocationem cuiquam dedisse, promisisse, cavisse. His enim verbis, ac mille praeterea, et venire advocationes et emi vetabantur. Peractis tamen negotiis, permittebatur pecuniam, dumtaxat decem milium dare. Hoc facto Nepotis commotus praetor, qui centumviralibus praesidebat, deliberaturus, an sequeretur exemplum, inopinatum nobis otium dedit. Interim tota civitate Nepotis edictum carpitur laudatur. Multi 'invenimus qui curva corrigeret. Quid? ante hunc praetores non fuerunt? quis autem hic est, qui emendet publicos mores?' Alii contra 'rectissime fecit: initurus magistratum, iura cognovit, senatus consulta legit, reprimit foedissimas pactiones, rem pulcerrimam turpissime venire, non patitur.' Tales ubique sermones; qui tamen alterutram in partem ex eventu praevalebunt. Est omnino iniquum, sed usu receptum, quod honesta consilia vel turpia, prout male aut prospere cedunt, ita vel probantur vel reprehenduntur. Inde plerumque eadem facta modo diligentiae, modo vanitatis, modo libertatis, modo furoris nomen accipiunt. Vale. [v. 21.]

74. C. Plinius Tacito suo s.

Salvum te in urbem venisse gaudeo; venisti autem, si quando alias, nunc maxime mihi desideratus. Ipse pauculis adhuc diebus in Tusculano commorabor, ut opusculum, quod est in manibus, absolvam. Vereor enim ne, si hanc intentionem iam in fine laxavero, aegre resumam. Interim ne quid festinationi meae

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pereat, quod sum praesens petiturus, hac quasi praecursoria epistula rogo. Sed prius accipe causas rogandi. Proxime cum in patria mea fui, venit ad me salutandum, municipis mei filius praetextatus. Huic ego 'studes?' inquam. Respondit 'Etiam.' 'Ubi?' 'Mediolani.' 'Cur non hic?' Et pater eius (erat enim una atque etiam ipse adduxerat puerum) 'quia nullos hic praeceptores habemus.' 'Quare nullos? nam vehementer intererat vestra, qui patres estis,' et opportune complures patres audiebant, 'liberos vestros hic potissimum discere. Ubi enim aut iucundius morarentur quam in patria, aut pudicius continerentur quam sub oculis parentum, aut minore sumptu quam domi? Quantulum est ergo, collata pecunia, conducere praeceptores, quodque nunc in habitationes, in viatica, in ea, quae peregre emuntur, inpenditis, adicere mercedibus? Atque adeo ego, qui nondum liberos habeo, paratus sum pro re publica nostra, quasi pro filia vel parente, tertiam partem eius, quod conferre vobis placebit, dare. Totum etiam pollicerer, nisi timerem, ne hoc munus meum quandoque ambitu corrumperetur, ut accidere multis in locis video, in quibus praeceptores publice conducuntur. Huic vitio occurri uno remedio potest, si parentibus solis ius conducendi relinquatur, iisdemque religio recte iudicandi necessitate collationis addatur. Nam qui fortasse de alieno neglegentes, certe de suo diligentes erunt, dabuntque operam, ne a me pecuniam non nisi dignus accipiat, si accepturus et ab ipsis erit. Proinde consentite, conspirate, maioremque animum ex meo sumite, qui

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cupio esse quam plurimum, quod debeam conferre. Nihil honestius praestare liberis vestris, nihil gratius patriae potestis. Educentur hic, qui hic nascuntur, statimque ab infantia natale solum amare, frequentare, consuescant. Atque utinam tam claros praeceptores inducatis, ut finitimis oppidis studia hinc petantur, utque nunc liberi vestri aliena in loca, ita mox alieni in hunc locum confluant!' Haec putavi altius et quasi a fonte repetenda, quo magis scires, quam gratum mihi foret, si susciperes, quod iniungo. Iniungo autem et pro rei magnitudine rogo, ut ex copia studiosorum, quae ad te ex admiratione ingenii tui convenit, circumspicias praeceptores, quos sollicitare possimus, sub ea tamen conditione, ne cui fidem meam obstringam. Omnia enim libera parentibus servo. Illi iudicent, illi eligant: ego mihi curam tantum et inpendium vindico. Proinde si quis fuerit repertus, qui ingenio suo fidat, eat illuc ea lege, ut hinc nihil aliud certum quam fiduciam suam ferat. Vale. [iv. 13.]

75. C. Plinius Calestrio Tironi suo s.

Iacturam gravissimam feci, si iactura dicenda est tanti viri amissio. Decessit Corellius Rufus, et quidem sponte, quod dolorem meum exulcerat. Est enim luctuosissimum genus mortis, quae non ex natura nec fatalis videtur. Nam utcumque in illis, qui morbo finiuntur, magnum ex ipsa necessitate solacium est, in iis vero, quos arcessita mors aufert, hic insanabilis dolor est, quod creduntur potuisse diu vivere. Corel-

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sed litteraridem summa ratio, quae sapientibus pro necessitate est, ad hoc consilium compulit, quamquam plurimas vivendi causas habentem, optimam conscientiam, optimam famam, maximam auctoritatem, praeterea filiam, uxorem, nepotem, sorores, interque tot pignora veros amicos. Sed tam longa, tam iniqua valetudine conflictabatur, ut haec tanta pretia vivendi mortis rationibus vincerentur. Tertio et tricensimo anno, ut ipsum audiebam, pedum dolore correptus est. Patrius hic illi: nam plerumque morbi quoque per successiones quasdam, ut alia, traduntur. Hunc abstinentia sanctitate, quoad viridis aetas, vicit et fregit; novissime cum senectute ingravescentem viribus animi sustinebat, cum quidem incredibiles cruciatus et indignissima tormenta pateretur. Iam enim dolor non pedibus solis, ut prius, insidebat, sed omnia membra pervagabatur. Veni ad eum Domitiani temporibus in suburbano iacentem. Servi e cubiculo recesserunt: habebat hoc moris, quotiens intrasset fidelior amicus; quin etiam uxor, quamquam omnis secreti capacissima, digrediebatur. Circumtulit oculos et 'cur' inquit 'me putas hos tantos dolores tam diu sustinere? ut scilicet isti latroni vel uno die supersim.' Dedisses huic animo par corpus, fecisset quod optabat. Adfuit tamen deus voto; cuius ille compos, ut iam securus liberque moriturus, multa illa vitae sed minora retinacula abrupit. Increverat valetudo, quam temperantia mitigare temptavit, perseverantem constantia fugit. Iam dies alter, tertius, quartus: abstinebat cibo. Misit ad me uxor eius Hispulla communem amicum, C. Geminium, cum

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tristissimo nuntio, destinasse Corellium morte
suis aut filiae precibus flecti, solum superesse me a quo revocari posset ad vitam. Cucurri: perveneram in proximum, cum mihi ab eadem Hispulla Iulius Atticus nuntiat, nihil iam ne me quidem impetraturum: tam obstinate magis ac magis induruisse. Dixerat sane medico admoventi cibum κέκρικα, quae vox quantum admirationis in animo meo, tantum desiderii reliquit. Cogito quo amico, quo viro caream. Implevit quidem annum septimum et sexagensimum, quae aetas etiam robustissimis satis longa est: scio. Evasit perpetuam valetudinem: scio. Decessit superstitibus suis, florente re publica, quae illi omnibus suis carior erat: et hoc scio. Tamen tamquam et iuvenis et firmissimi mortem doleo, doleo autem, licet me inbecillum putes, meo nomine. Amisi enim, amisi vitae meae testem, rectorem, magistrum. In summa, dicam quod recenti dolore contubernali meo Calvisio dixi, 'vereor ne neglegentius vivam.' Proinde adhibe solacia mihi, non haec 'senex erat, infirmus erat' (haec enim novi), sed nova aliqua, sed magna, quae audierim numquam, legerim numquam. Nam quae audivi, quae legi, sponte succurrunt, sed tanto dolore superantur. Vale. [i. 12.]

76. C. Plinius Catilio Severo suo s.

Diu iam in urbe haereo, et quidem attonitus. Perturbat me longa et pertinax valetudo Titi Aristonis, quem singulariter et miror et diligo. Nihil est enim illo gravius, sanctius, doctius; ut mihi non unus homo,

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sed litterae ipsae, omnesque bonae artes in uno homine summum periculum adire videantur. Quam peritus ille et privati iuris et publici! quantum rerum, quantum exemplorum, quantum antiquitatis tenet! Nihil est quod discere velis, quod ille docere non possit: mihi certe, quotiens aliquid abditum quaero, ille thesaurus est. Iam quanta sermonibus eius fides, quanta auctoritas, quam pressa et decora cunctatio! quid est quod non statim sciat? Et tamen plerumque haesitat, dubitat diversitate rationum, quas acri magnoque iudicio ab origine causisque primis repetit, discernit, expendit. Ad hoc quam parcus in victu, quam modicus in cultu! Soleo ipsum cubiculum eius, ipsumque lectum, ut imaginem quandam priscae frugalitatis aspicere. Ornat haec magnitudo animi, quae nihil ad ostentationem, omnia ad conscientiam refert, recteque facti non ex populi sermone mercedem, sed ex facto petit. In summa non facile quemquam ex istis, qui sapientiae studium habitu corporis praeferunt, huic viro comparabis. Non quidem gymnasia sectatur aut porticus, nec disputationibus longis aliorum otium suumque delectat; sed in toga negotiisque versatur, multos advocatione, plures consilio iuvat. Nemini tamen istorum castitate, pietate, iustitia, fortitudine etiam primo loco cesserit. Mirareris, si interesses, qua patientia hanc ipsam valetudinem toleret, ut dolori resistat, ut sitim differat, ut incredibilem febrium ardorem, inmotus, opertusque transmittat. Nuper me paucosque mecum, quos maxime diligit, advocavit, rogavitque ut medicos consuleremus de summa vale-

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tudinis, ut, si esset insuperabilis, sponte exiret e vita, si tantum difficilis et longa, resisteret maneretque: dandum enim precibus uxoris, dandum filiae lacrimis, dandum etiam nobis amicis, ne spes nostras, si modo non essent inanes, voluntaria morte desereret. Id ego arduum in primis et praecipua laude dignum puto. Nam impetu quodam et instinctu procurrere ad mortem commune cum multis, deliberare vero et causas eius expendere, utque suaserit ratio, vitae mortisque consilium vel suscipere vel ponere ingentis est animi. Et medici quidem secunda nobis pollicentur: superest, ut promissis deus adnuat, tandemque me hac sollicitudine exsolvat; qua liberatus Laurentinum meum, hoc est libellos et pugillares studiosumque otium repetam. Nunc enim nihil legere, nihil scribere aut adsidenti vacat, aut anxio libet. Habes quid timeam, quid optem, quid etiam in posterum destinem: tu quid egeris, quid agas, quid velis agere, invicem nobis, sed laetioribus epistulis scribe. Erit confusioni meae non mediocre solacium, si tu nihil quereris. Vale. [i. 22.]

77. C. Plinius Nepoti suo s.

Adnotasse videor facta dictaque virorum feminarumque alia clariora esse, alia maiora. Confirmata est opinio mea hesterno Fanniae sermone. Neptis haec Arriae illius, quae marito et solacium mortis et exemplum fuit. Multa referebat aviae suae non minora hoc, sed obscuriora; quae tibi existimo tam mirabilia legenti fore, quam mihi audienti fuerunt.

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Aegrotabat Caecina Paetus, maritus eius; aegrotabat et filius, uterque mortifere, ut videbatur: filius decessit eximia pulcritudine, pari verecundia, et parentibus non minus ob alia carus, quam quod filius erat. Huic illa ita funus paravit, ita duxit exequias, ut ignoraret maritus: quin immo, quotiens cubiculum eius intraret, vivere filium atque etiam commodiorem esse simulabat, ac persaepe interroganti quid ageret puer, respondebat 'bene quievit, libenter cibum sumpsit.' Deinde, cum diu cohibitae lacrimae vincerent, prorumperentque, egrediebatur: tunc se dolori dabat: satiata, siccis oculis, composito vultu, redibat, tamquam orbitatem foris reliquisset. Praeclarum quidem illud eiusdem, ferrum stringere, perfodere pectus, extrahere pugionem, porrigere marito, addere vocem immortalem ac paene divinam 'Paete, non dolet.' Sed tamen ista facienti, ista dicenti gloria et aeternitas ante oculos erant; quo maius est sine praemio aeternitatis, sine praemio gloriae abdere lacrimas, operire luctum, amissoque filio matrem adhuc agere. Scribonianus arma in Illyrico contra Claudium moverat: fuerat Paetus in partibus et occiso Scriboniano Romam trahebatur. Erat ascensurus navem: Arria milites orabat, ut simul inponeretur. 'Nempe enim' inquid 'daturi estis consulari viro servulos aliquos, quorum e manu cibum capiat, a quibus vestiatur, a quibus calcietur: omnia sola praestabo.' Non impetravit: conduxit piscatoriam nauculam, ingensque navigium minimo secuta est. Eadem apud Claudium uxori Scriboniani, cum illa profiteretur indicium, 'ego' inquit 'te audiam, cuius in gremio

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Scribonianus occisus est, et vivis'? Ex quo manifestum est ei consilium pulcerrimae mortis non subitum fuisse. Quin etiam, cum Thrasea, gener eius, deprecaretur, ne mori pergeret, interque alia dixisset 'vis ergo filiam tuam, si mihi pereundum fuerit, mori mecum?' respondit 'si tam diu tantaque concordia vixerit tecum quam ego cum Paeto, volo.' Auxerat hoc responso curam suorum, attentius custodiebatur: sensit et 'nihil agitis' inquit: 'potestis enim efficere, ut male moriar, ut non moriar non potestis.' Dum haec dicit, exiluit cathedra adversoque parieti caput ingenti impetu impegit et corruit. Focillata 'dixeram' inquit 'vobis inventuram me quamlibet duram ad mortem viam, si vos facilem negassetis.' Videnturne haec tibi maiora illo 'Paete, non dolet,' ad quod per haec perventum est? cum interim illud quidem ingens fama, haec nulla circumfert. Unde colligitur, quod initio dixi, alia esse clariora, alia maiora. Vale. [iii. 16.]

78. C. Plinius Mustio suo s.

Haruspicum monitu reficienda est mihi aedes Cereris in praediis in melius et in maius; vetus sane et angusta, cum sit alioqui stato die frequentissima. Nam Idibus Septembribus magnus e regione tota coit populus, multae res aguntur, multa vota suscipiuntur, multa redduntur, sed nullum in proximo suffugium aut imbris aut solis. Videor ergo munifice simul religioseque facturus, si aedem quam pulcerrimam extruxero, addidero porticus aedi, illam ad usum deae, has ad hominum. Velim ergo emas quattuor marmoreas

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columnas, cuius tibi videbitur generis; emas marmora, quibus solum, quibus parietes excolantur. Erit etiam vel faciendum vel emendum ipsius deae signum, quia antiquum illud e ligno quibusdam sui partibus vetustate truncatum est. Quantum ad porticus, nihil interim occurrit, quod videatur istinc esse repetendum; nisi tamen ut formam secundum rationem loci scribas. Neque enim possunt circumdari templo; nam solum templi hinc flumine et abruptissimis ripis, hinc via cingitur. Est ultra viam latissimum pratum, in quo satis apte contra templum ipsum porticus explicabuntur: nisi quid tu melius inveneris, qui soles locorum difficultates arte superare. Vale. [ix. 39.]

79. C. Plinius Surae suo s.

Et mihi discendi, et tibi docendi, facultatem otium praebet. Igitur perquam velim scire, esse phantasmata, et habere propriam figuram numenque aliquod putes, an inania et vana ex metu nostro imaginem accipere. Ego ut esse credam, in primis eo ducor, quod audio, accidisse Curtio Rufo. Tenuis adhuc et obscurus obtinenti Africam comes haeserat: inclinato die spatiabatur in porticu: offertur ei mulieris figura humana grandior pulcriorque: perterrito Africam se, futurorum praenuntiam, dixit; iturum enim Romam, honoresque gesturum atque etiam cum summo imperio in eandem provinciam reversurum, ibique moriturum. Facta sunt omnia. Praeterea accedenti Carthaginem, egredientique nave eadem figura in litore occurrisse narratur. Ipse certe inplicitus morbo, futura praeteritis,

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adversa secundis auguratus, spem salutis, nullo suorum desperante, proiecit. Iam illud nonne et magis terribile et non minus mirum est, quod exponam, ut accepi?

Erat Athenis spatiosa et capax domus, sed infamis et pestilens. Per silentium noctis sonus ferri, et si attenderes acrius, strepitus vinculorum, longius primo, deinde e proximo reddebatur: mox apparebat idolon, senex macie et squalore confectus, promissa barba, horrenti capillo: cruribus compedes, manibus catenas gerebat quatiebatque. Inde inhabitantibus tristes diraeque noctes per metum vigilabantur: vigiliam morbus et, crescente formidine, mors sequebatur. Nam interdiu quoque, quamquam abscesserat imago, memoria imaginis oculis inerrabat, longiorque causis timoris timor erat. Deserta inde et damnata solitudine domus totaque illi monstro relicta; proscribebatur tamen, seu quis emere, seu quis conducere ignarus tanti mali vellet. Venit Athenas philosophus Athenodorus, legit titulum, auditoque pretio, quia suspecta vilitas, percunctatus, omnia docetur ac nihilominus, immo tanto magis, conducit. Ubi coepit advesperascere, iubet sterni sibi prima domus parte, poscit pugillares, stilum, lumen: suos omnes in interiora dimittit, ipse ad scribendum animum, oculos, manum intendit, ne vacua mens audita simulacra et inanes sibi metus fingeret. Initio, quale ubique, silentium noctis, dein concuti ferrum, vincula moveri: ille non tollere oculos, non remittere stilum, sed offirmare animum auribusque praetendere: tum crebrescere fragor, adventare, et iam ut in limine, iam ut intra limen audiri: respicit, videt

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agnoscitque narratam sibi effigiem. Stabat innuebatque digito, similis vocanti: hic contra, ut paulum exspectaret, manu significat, rursusque ceris et stilo incumbit: illa scribentis capiti catenis insonabat: respicit rursus idem quod prius innuentem; nec moratus, tollit lumen et sequitur. Ibat illa lento gradu, quasi gravis vinculis: postquam deflexit in aream domus, repente dilapsa, deserit comitem: desertus herbas et folia concerpta signum loco ponit. Postero die adit magistratus, monet ut illum locum effodi iubeant. Inveniuntur ossa inserta catenis et inplicita, quae corpus aevo terraque putrefactum nuda et exesa relinquerat vinculis: collecta publice sepeliuntur. Domus postea rite conditis manibus caruit. Et haec quidem adfirmantibus credo: illud adfirmare aliis possum.

Est libertus mihi, non illitteratus. Cum hoc minor frater eodem lecto quiescebat. Is visus est sibi cernere, quendam in toro residentem admoventemque capiti suo cultros atque etiam ex ipso vertice amputantem capillos. Ubi illuxit, ipse circa verticem tonsus, capilli iacentes reperiuntur. Exiguum temporis medium, et rursus simile aliud priori fidem fecit. Puer in paedagogio mixtus pluribus dormiebat: venerunt per fenestras (ita narrat) in tunicis albis duo cubantemque detonderunt, et qua venerant, recesserunt. Hunc quoque tonsum, sparsosque circa capillos dies ostendit. Nihil notabile secutum, nisi forte quod non fui reus, futurus, si Domitianus, sub quo haec acciderunt, diutius vixisset. Nam in scrinio eius datus a Caro de me libellus inventus est; ex quo coniectari potest, quia reis moris est summittere

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capillum, recisos meorum capillos depulsi, quod imminebat, periculi signum fuisse. Proinde rogo eruditionem tuam intendas. Digna res est, quam diu multumque consideres: ne ego quidem indignus, cui copiam scientiae tuae facias. Licet etiam utramque in partem, ut soles, disputes, ex altera tamen fortius, ne me suspensum incertumque dimittas, cum mihi consulendi causa fuerit, ut dubitare desinerem. Vale. [vii. 27.]

80. C. Plinius Caninio suo s.

Incidi in materiam veram, sed simillimam fictae, dignamque isto laetissimo, altissimo, planeque poëtico ingenio. Incidi autem, dum super cenam varia miracula hinc inde referuntur. Magna auctori fides: tametsi quid poëtae cum fide? Is tamen auctor cui bene, vel historiam scripturus, credidisses.

Est in Africa Hipponensis colonia, mari proxima: adiacet navigabile stagnum: ex hoc, in modum fluminis, aestuarium emergit, quod vice alterna, prout aestus aut repressit, aut inpulit, nunc infertur mari, nunc redditur stagno. Omnis hic aetas piscandi, navigandi, atque etiam natandi studio tenetur, maxime pueri, quos otium lususque sollicitat. His gloria et virtus altissime provehi: victor ille, qui longissime, ut litus, ita simul natantes reliquit. Hoc certamine puer quidam audentior ceteris in ulteriora tendebat. Delphinus occurrit, et nunc praecedere puerum, nunc sequi, nunc circumire, postremo subire, deponere, iterum subire, trepidantemque perferre primum in altum; mox flectit ad litus, reddit-

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que terrae et aequalibus. Serpit per coloniam fama: concurrere omnes, ipsum puerum tamquam miraculum aspicere, interrogare, audire, narrare. Postero die obsident litus, prospectant mare et si quid est mari simile. Natant pueri: inter hos ille, sed cautius. Delphinus rursus ad tempus, rursus ad puerum venit. Fugit ille cum ceteris. Delphinus, quasi invitet et revocet, exsilit, mergitur, variosque orbes inplicitat, expeditque. Hoc altero die, hoc tertio, hoc pluribus, donec homines innutritos mari subiret timendi pudor. Accedunt et adludunt et appellant; tangunt etiam pertrectantque praebentem. Crescit audacia experimento. Maxime puer, qui primus expertus est, adnatantis insilit tergo, fertur, referturque, agnosci se, amari putat, amat ipse: neuter timet, neuter timetur: huius fiducia, mansuetudo illius augetur. Nec non alii pueri dextra laevaque simul eunt hortantes monentesque. Ibat una (id quoque mirum) delphinus alius, tantum spectator et comes. Nihil enim simile aut faciebat aut patiebatur, sed alterum illum ducebat, reducebatque, ut puerum ceteri pueri. Incredibile, tam verum tamen quam priora, delphinum gestatorem conlusoremque puerorum in terram quoque extrahi solitum, arenisque siccatum, ubi incaluisset, in mare revolvi. Constat Octavium Avitum, legatum pro consule, in litus educto religione prava superfudisse unguentum, cuius illum novitatem odoremque in altum refugisse, nec nisi post multos dies visum languidum et maestum, mox redditis viribus priorem lasciviam et solita ministeria repetisse. Confluebant omnes ad

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spectaculum magistratus, quorum adventu et mora, modica res publica novis sumptibus atterebatur. Postremo locus ipse quietem suam secretumque perdebat. Placuit occulte interfici ad quod coibatur. Haec tu qua miseratione, qua copia deflebis, ornabis, attolles! Quamquam non est opus adfingas aliquid aut adstruas: sufficit ne ea, quae sunt vera, minuantur. Vale. [ix. 33.]

81. C. Plinius Traiano Imperatori.

Quia confido, domine, ad curam tuam pertinere, nuntio tibi me Ephesum cum omnibus meis ὑπὲρ Μαλέαν navigasse. Quamvis contrariis ventis retentus, nunc destino partim orariis navibus, partim vehiculis, provinciam petere. Nam sicut itineri graves aestus, ita continuae navigationi Etesiae reluctantur. [x. 15 (26).]

82. Traianus Plinio s.

Recte renuntiasti, mi Secunde carissime. Pertinet enim ad animum meum, quali itinere in provinciam pervenias. Prudenter autem constituis interim navibus, interim vehiculis uti, prout loca suaserint. [x. 16 (27).]

83. C. Plinius Traiano Imperatori.

Sicut saluberrimam navigationem, domine, usque Ephesum expertus, ita inde, postquam vehiculis iter facere coepi, gravissimis aestibus, atque etiam febriculis, vexatus Pergami substiti. Rursus, cum transissem

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in orarias naviculas, contrariis ventis retentus, aliquanto tardius quam speraveram, id est XV Kal. Octobres, Bithyniam intravi. Non possum tamen de mora queri, cum mihi contigerit, quod erat auspicatissimum, natalem tuum in provincia celebrare. Nunc rei publicae Prusensium inpendia, reditus, debitores excutio; quod ex ipso tractatu magis ac magis necessarium intellego. Multae enim pecuniae variis ex causis a privatis detinentur: praeterea quaedam minime legitimis sumptibus erogantur. Haec tibi, domine, in ipso ingressu meo scripsi. [x. 17 (28).]

C. Plinius Traiano Imperatori.

Quinto decimo Kalendas Octobres, domine, provinciam intravi, quam in eo obsequio, in ea erga te fide, quam de genere humano mereris inveni. Dispice, domine, an necessarium putes mittere huc mensorem. Videntur enim non mediocres pecuniae posse revocari a curatoribus operum, si mensurae fideliter aguntur. Ita certe prospicio ex ratione Prusensium, quam cum maxime tracto. [x. 17 (28).]

84. C. Plinius Traiano Imperatori.

Rogo, domine, consilio me regas haesitantem, utrum per publicos civitatum servos, quod usque adhuc factum, an per milites adservare custodias debeam. Vereor enim ne et per servos publicos parum fideliter custodiantur, et non exiguum militum numerum haec

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cura distringat. Interim publicis servis paucos milites addidi. Video tamen periculum esse, ne id ipsum utrisque neglegentiae causa sit, dum communem culpam hi in illos, illi in hos regerere posse confidunt. [x. 19 (30).]

85. Traianus Plinio s.

Nihil opus est, mi Secunde carissime, ad continendas custodias plures commilitones converti. Perseveremus in ea consuetudine, quae isti provinciae est, ut per publicos servos custodiantur. Etenim ut fideliter hoc faciant, in tua severitate ac diligentia positum est. In primis enim, sicut scribis, verendum est ne, si permisceantur servis publicis milites, mutua inter se fiducia neglegentiores sint: sed et illud haereat nobis, quam paucissimos milites a signis avocandos esse. [x. 20 (31).]

86. C. Plinius Traiano Imperatori.

Prusenses, domine, balineum habent et sordidum et vetus. Id itaque indulgentia tua restituere desiderant: ego tamen aestimans novum fieri debere . . . videris mihi desiderio eorum indulgere posse. Erit enim pecunia ex qua fiat, primum ea quam revocare a privatis, et exigere iam coepi, deinde quam ipsi erogare in oleum soliti, parati sunt in opus balinei conferre; quod alioqui et dignitas civitatis et seculi tui nitor postulat. [x. 23 (34).]

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87. Traianus Plinio s.

Si instructio novi balinei oneratura vires Prusensium non est, possumus desiderio eorum indulgere; modo ne quid ideo aut intribuatur, aut minus illis in posterum fiat, ad necessarias erogationes. [x. 24 (35).]

88. C. Plinius Traiano Imperatori.

Maximus, libertus et procurator tuus, domine, praeter decem beneficiarios, quos adsignari a me Gemellino, optimo viro, iussisti, sibi quoque confirmat, necessarios esse milites. Ex his interim . . . , sicut inveneram, in ministerio eius relinquendos, existimavi, praesertim cum ad frumentum comparandum iret in Paphlagoniam. Quin etiam tutelae causa, quia ita desiderabat, addidi duos equites. In futurum quid servari velis rogo rescribas. [x. 27 (36).]

89. Traianus Plinio s.

Nunc quidem proficiscentem ad comparationem frumentorum Maximum, libertum meum, recte militibus instruxisti. Fungebatur enim et ipse extraordinario munere. Cum ad pristinum actum reversus fuerit, sufficient illi duo a te dati milites, et totidem a Virdio Gemellino, procuratore meo, quem adiuvat. [x. 28 (37).]

90. C. Plinius Traiano Imperatori.

Sempronius Caelianus, egregius iuvenis, repertos inter tirones duos servos misit ad me; quorum ego supplicium

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distuli, ut te conditorem disciplinae militaris firmatoremque consulerem de modo poenae. Ipse enim dubito ob hoc maxime, quod, ut iam dixerant sacramento militari, nondum distributi in numeros erant. Quid ergo debeam sequi, rogo, domine, scribas, praesertim cum pertineat ad exemplum.. [x. 29 (38).]

91. Traianus Plinio s.

Secundum mandata mea fecit Sempronius Caelianus, mittendo ad te eos de quibus cognosci oportebit, an capitale supplicium meruisse videantur. Refert autem voluntarii se obtulerint an lecti sint vel etiam vicarii dati. Lecti si sunt, inquisitio peccavit: si vicarii dati, penes eos culpa est qui dederunt: si ipsi, cum haberent conditionis suae conscientiam, venerunt, animadvertendum in illos erit. Neque enim multum interest, quod nondum per numeros distributi sunt. Ille enim dies, quo primum probati sunt, veritatem ab iis originis suae exegit. [x. 30 (39).]

92. C. Plinius Traiano Imperatori.

Salva magnitudine tua, domine, descendas oportet ad meas curas, cum ius mihi dederis, referendi ad te, de quibus dubito. In plerisque civitatibus, maxime Nicomediae et Nicaeae, quidam vel in opus damnati, vel in ludum, similiaque his genera poenarum, publicorum servorum officio ministerioque funguntur, atque etiam, ut publici servi, annua accipiunt. Quod ego cum audissem, diu multumque haesitavi, quid facere deberem.

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Nam et reddere poenae post longum tempus, plerosque iam senes, et, quantum adfirmatur, frugaliter modesteque viventes, nimis severum arbitrabar, et in publicis officiis retinere damnatos, non satis honestum putabam; eosdem rursus a re publica pasci otiosos inutile, non pasci etiam periculosum existimabam. Necessario ergo rem totam, dum te consulerem, in suspenso reliqui. Quaeres fortasse quemadmodum evenerit, ut poenis, in quas damnati erant, exsolverentur: et ego quaesii, sed nihil comperi, quod adfirmare tibi possim. Ut decreta, quibus damnati erant, proferebantur, ita nulla monimenta, quibus liberati probarentur. Erant tamen, qui dicerent, deprecantes iussu proconsulum legatorumve dimissos. Addebat fidem, quod credibile erat neminem hoc ausum sine auctore. [x. 31 (40).]

93. Traianus Plinio s.

Meminerimus idcirco te in istam provinciam missum, quoniam multa in ea emendanda apparuerint. Erit autem hoc vel maxime corrigendum, quod, qui damnati ad poenam erant, non modo ea sine auctore, ut scribis, liberati sunt, sed etiam in conditionem proborum ministrorum retrahuntur. Qui igitur intra hos proximos decem annos damnati, nec ullo idoneo auctore, liberati sunt, hos oportebit, poenae suae reddi: si qui vetustiores invenientur et senes ante annos decem damnati, distribuamus illos in ea ministeria, quae non longe a poena sint. Solent enim eiusmodi ad balineum, ad purgationes cloacarum, item munitiones viarum et vicorum dari. [x. 32 (41).]

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94. C. Plinius Traiano Imperatori.

Cum diversam partem provinciae circumirem, Nicomediae vastissimum incendium multas privatorum domos et duo publica opera, quamquam via interiacente, Gerusian et Iseon, absumpsit. Est autem latius sparsum primum violentia venti, deinde inertia hominum, quos satis constat otiosos et inmobiles tanti mali spectatores perstitisse; et alioqui nullus usquam in publico sipho, nulla hama, nullum denique instrumentum ad incendia compescenda. Et haec quidem, ut iam praecepi, parabuntur. Tu, domine, dispice an instituendum putes collegium fabrorum, dumtaxat hominum CL. Ego attendam, ne quis nisi faber recipiatur, neve iure concesso in aliud utatur; nec erit difficile custodire tam paucos. [x. 33 (42).]

95. Traianus Plinio s.

Tibi quidem secundum exempla conplurium in mentem venit posse collegium fabrorum apud Nicomedenses constitui. Sed meminerimus provinciam istam, et praecipue eas civitates eiusmodi factionibus esse vexatas. Quodcumque nomen ex quacumque causa dederimus iis, qui in idem contracti fuerint [sodalitates] hetaeriaeque brevi fient. Satius itaque est comparari ea, quae ad coercendos ignes auxilio esse possint; admonerique dominos praediorum, ut et ipsi inhibeant; ac, si res poposcerit, accursu populi ad hoc uti. [x. 34 (43).]

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96. C. Plinius Traiano Imperatori.

In aquae ductum, domine, Nicomedenses inpenderunt HS. [XXX] CCCXXIX, qui inperfectus adhuc relictus atque etiam destructus est: rursus in alium ductum erogata sunt CC. Hoc quoque relicto novo inpendio est opus, ut aquam habeant qui tantam pecuniam male perdiderunt. Ipse perveni ad fontem purissimum, ex quo videtur aqua debere perduci, sicut initio temptatum erat, arcuato opere, ne tantum ad plana civitatis et humilia perveniat. Manent adhuc paucissimi arcus: possunt et erigi quidam lapide quadrato, qui ex superiore opere detractus est: aliqua pars, ut mihi videtur, testaceo opere agenda erit; id enim et facilius et vilius. Sed in primis necessarium est mitti a te vel aquilegem vel architectum, ne rursus eveniat quod accidit. Ego illud unum adfirmo, et utilitatem operis et pulcritudinem saeculo tuo esse dignissimam. [x. 37 (46).]

97. Traianus Plinio s.

Curandum est ut aqua in Nicomedensem civitatem perducatur. Vere credo te ea, qua debebis, diligentia hoc opus adgressurum. Sed medius fidius ad eandem diligentiam tuam pertinet inquirere, quorum vitio ad hoc tempus tantam pecuniam Nicomedenses perdiderint, ne, dum inter se gratificantur, et inchoaverint aquaeductus et reliquerint. Quid itaque compereris, perfer in notitiam nostram. [x. 38 (47).]

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98. C. Plinius Traiano Imperatori.

Theatrum, domine, Nicaeae maxima iam parte constructum, imperfectum tamen, sestertium, ut audio (neque enim ratio excussa est), amplius centies hausit: vereor ne frustra. Ingentibus enim rimis descendit et hiat, sive in causa solum humidum et molle, sive lapis ipse gracilis et putris: dignum est certe deliberatione, sitne faciendum, an sit relinquendum, an etiam destruendum. Nam fulturae ac substructiones, quibus subinde suscipitur, non tam firmae mihi quam sumptuosae videntur. Huic theatro ex privatorum pollicitationibus multa debentur, ut basilicae circa, ut porticus supra caveam. Quae nunc omnia differuntur cessante eo, quod ante peragendum est. Iidem Nicaeenses gymnasium incendio amissum ante adventum meum restituere coeperunt, longe numerosius laxiusque quam fuerat, et iam aliquantum erogaverunt; periculum est ne parum utiliter; inconpositum enim et sparsum est. Praeterea architectus—sane aemulus eius a quo opus inchoatum est—adfirmat parietes, quamquam viginti et duos pedes latos, inposita onera sustinere non posse, quia sint caemento medii farti, nec testaceo opere praecincti. Claudiopolitani quoque in depresso loco, imminente etiam monte, ingens balineum defodiunt magis quam aedificant, et quidem ex ea pecunia quam buleutae additi beneficio tuo aut iam obtulerunt ob introitum aut nobis exigentibus conferunt. Ergo, cum timeam, ne illic publica pecunia, hic, quod est omni pecunia pretiosius, munus tuum male conlocetur, cogor petere

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a te non solum ob theatrum verum etiam ob haec balinea mittas architectum dispecturum, utrum sit utilius post sumptum, qui factus est, quoquo modo consummare opera, ut inchoata sunt, an, quae videntur, emendanda corrigere, quae transferenda, transferre, ne, dum servare volumus, quod inpensum est, male inpendamus, quod addendum est. [x. 39 (48).]

99. Traianus Plinio s.

Quid oporteat fieri circa theatrum, quod inchoatum apud Nicaeenses est, in re praesenti optime deliberabis et constitues. Mihi sufficiet indicari, cui sententiae accesseris. Tunc autem a privatis exigi opera tibi curae sit, cum theatrum, propter quod illa promissa sunt, factum erit. Gymnasiis indulgent Graeculi; ideo forsitan Nicaeenses maiore animo constructionem eius adgressi sunt: sed oportet illos eo contentos esse, quod possit illi sufficere. Quid Claudiopolitanis circa balineum, quod parum, ut scribis, idóneo loco inchoaverunt, suadendum sit, tu constitues. Architecti tibi deesse non possunt. Nulla provincia est quae non peritos et ingeniosos homines habeat; modo ne existimes, brevius esse ab urbe mitti, cum ex Graecia etiam ad nos venire soliti sint. [x. 40 (49).]

100. C. Plinius Traiano Imperatori.

Intuenti mihi et fortunae tuae et animi magnitudinem, convenientissimum videtur, demonstrari opera

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non minus aeternitate tua quam gloria digna, quantumque pulcritudinis tantum utilitatis habitura. Est in Nicomedensium finibus amplissimus lacus: per hunc marmora, fructus, ligna, materiae et sumptu modico et labore usque ad viam navibus, inde magno labore, maiore inpendio vehiculis ad mare devehuntur. Hoc opus multas manus poscit: at eae porro non desunt. Nam et in agris magna copia est hominum et maxima in civitate; certaque spes omnes libentissime adgressuros opus omnibus fructuosum. Superest ut tu libratorem vel architectum, si tibi videbitur, mittas, qui diligenter exploret, sitne lacus altior mari, quem artifices regionis huius quadraginta cubitis altiorem esse contendunt. Ego per eadem loca invenio fossam a rege percussam: sed incertum utrum ad colligendum humorem circumiacentium agrorum, an ad committendum flumini lacum. Est enim imperfecta; hoc quoque dubium, intercepto rege mortalitate, an desperato operis effectu. Sed hoc ipso (feres enim me ambitiosum pro tua gloria) incitor et accendor, ut cupiam, peragi a te, quae tantum coeperant reges. [x. 41 (50).]

101. Traianus Plinio s.

Potest nos sollicitare lacus iste, ut committere illum mari velimus: sed plane explorandum est diligenter ne, si demissus in mare fuerit, totus effluat; certe quantum aquarum et unde accipiat. Poteris a Calpurnio Macro petere libratorem, et ego hinc aliquem tibi peritum eiusmodi operum mittam. [x. 42 (51).]

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102. C. Plinius Traiano Imperatori.

Requirenti mihi Byzantiorum rei publicae inpendia, quae maxima facit, indicatum est, domine, legatum ad te salutandum annis omnibus cum psephismate mitti eique dari nummorum duodena milia. Memor ergo propositi tui legatum quidem retinendum, psephisma autem mittendum putavi, ut simul et sumptus levaretur et inpleretur publicum officium. Eidem civitati inputata sunt terna milia, quae viatici nomine annua dabantur legato eunti ad eum, qui Moesiae praeest, publice salutandum. Haec ego in posterum circumcidenda existimavi. Te, domine, rogo ut quid sentias rescribendo aut consilium meum confirmare aut errorem emendare digneris. [x. 43 (52).]

103. Traianus Plinio s.

Optime fecisti, Secunde carissime, duodena ista Byzantiis quae ad salutandum me in legatum inpendebantur remittendo. Perpetuo . . . his partibus, etsi solum psephisma per te missum fuerit. Ignoscet illis et Moesiae praeses, si minus illum sumptuose coluerint. [x. 44 (53).]

104. C. Plinius Traiano Imperatori.

Diplomata, domine, quorum dies praeteriit an omnino observari et quam diu velis, rogo scribas meque haesitatione liberes. Vereor enim ne in alterutram partem ignorantia lapsus aut inlicita confirmem aut necessaria inpediam. [x. 45 (54).]

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105. Traianus Plinio s.

Diplomata quorum praeteritus est dies non debent esse in usu: ideo inter prima iniungo mihi, ut per omnes provincias ante mittam nova diplomata, quam desiderari possint. [x. 46 (55).]

106. C. Plinius Traiano Imperatori.

Cum vellem, domine, Apameae cognoscere publicos debitores et reditum et inpendia, responsum est mihi cupere quidem universos, ut a me rationes coloniae legerentur; numquam tamen esse lectas ab ullo proconsulum, habuisse privilegium et vetustissimum morem arbitrio suo rem publicam administrare. Exegi ut quae dicebant quaeque recitabant libello conplecterentur, quem tibi qualem acceperam misi, quamvis intellegerem pleraque ex illo ad id de quo quaeritur non pertinere. Te rogo, ut mihi praecipere digneris, quid me putes observare debere. Vereor enim ne aut excessisse aut non inplesse officii mei partes videar. [x. 47 (56).]

107 C. Plinius Traiano Imperatori.

Ante adventum meum, domine, Nicomedenses priori foro novum adicere coeperunt, cuius in angulo est aedes vetustissima Matris Magnae aut reficienda aut transferenda; ob hoc praecipue, quod est multo depressior opere eo quod cum maxime surgit. Ego cum quaererem num esset aliqua lex dicta templo, cognovi

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alium hic, alium apud nos esse morem dedicationis. Dispice ergo, domine, an putes aedem, cui nulla lex dicta est, salva religione posse transferri: alioqui commodissimum est, si religio non inpedit. [x. 49 (58).]

108 Traianus Plinio s.

Potes, mi Secunde carissime, sine sollicitudine religionis, si loci positio videtur hoc desiderare, aedem Matris deum transferre in eam quae est accommodatior; nec te moveat quod lex dedicationis nulla reperitur, cum solum peregrinae civitatis capax non sit dedicationis quae fit nostro iure. [x. 50 (59).]

109 C. Plinius Traiano Imperatori.

Diem, domine, quo servasti imperium, dum suscipis, quanta mereris laetitia celebravimus, precati deos ut te generi humano, cuius tutela et securitas saluti tuae innisa est, incolumem florentemque praestarent. Praeivimus et commilitonibus ius iurandum more sollemni, eadem provincialibus certatim pietate iurantibus. [x. 52 (60).]

110. Traianus Plinio s.

Quanta religione et laetitia commilitones cum provincialibus, te praeeunte, diem imperii mei celebraverint libenter, mi Secunde carissime, cognovi litteris tuis. [x. 53 (61).]

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111. C. Plinius Traiano Imperatori.

Pecuniae publicae, domine, providentia tua et ministerio nostro et iam exactae sunt et exiguntur; quae vereor ne otiosae iaceant. Nam et praediorum conparandorum aut nulla aut rarissima occasio est, nec inveniuntur qui velint debere, rei publicae praesertim, duodenis assibus, quanti a privatis mutuantur. Dispice ergo, domine, numquid minuendam usuram ac per hoc idoneos debitores invitandos putes, et si nec sic reperiuntur, distribuendam inter decuriones pecuniam, ita ut recte rei publicae caveant; quod quamquam invitis et recusantibus minus acerbum erit leviore usura constituta. [x. 54 (62).]

112. Traianus Plinio s.

Et ipse non aliud remedium dispicio, mi Secunde carissime, quam ut quantitas usurarum minuatur, quo facilius pecuniae publicae conlocentur. Modum eius ex copia eorum, qui mutuabuntur, tu constitues. Invitos ad accipiendum conpellere, quod fortassis ipsis otiosum futurum sit, non est ex iustitia nostrorum temporum. [x. 55 (63).]

113. C. Plinius Traiano Imperatori.

Magna, domine, et ad totam provinciam pertinens quaestio est de conditione et alimentis eorum, quos

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vocant θρεπτούς. In qua ego auditis constitutionibus principum, quia nihil inveniebam aut proprium aut universale, quod ad Bithynos ferretur, consulendum te existimavi quid observari velles. Neque enim putavi posse me in eo, quod auctoritatem tuam posceret, exemplo esse contentum. Recitabatur autem apud me edictum, quod dicebatur divi Augusti, ad Anniam pertinens: recitatae et epistulae divi Vespasiani ad Lacedaemonios et divi Titi ad eosdem et ad Achaeos, et Domitiani ad Avidium Nigrinum et Armenium Brocchum proconsules, item ad Lacedaemonios: quae ideo tibi non misi, quia et parum emendata et quaedam non certae fidei videbantur et quia vera et emendata in scriniis tuis esse credebam. [x. 65 (71).]

114. Traianus Plinio s.

Quaestio ista quae pertinet ad eos qui liberi nati expositi, deinde sublati a quibusdam et in servitute educati sunt, saepe tractata est, nec quicquam invenitur in commentariis eorum principum qui ante me fuerunt, quod ad omnes provincias sit constitutum. Epistulae sane sunt Domitiani ad Avidium Nigrinum et Armenium Brocchum, quae fortasse debeant observari: sed inter eas provincias de quibus rescripsit . . . non est Bithynia; et ideo nec adsertionem denegandam iis, qui ex eiusmodi causa in libertatem vindicabuntur, puto neque ipsam libertatem redimendam pretio alimentorum. [x. 66 (72).]

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115. C. Plinius Traiano Imperatori.

Petentibus quibusdam, ut sibi reliquias suorum aut propter iniuriam vetustatis aut propter fluminis incursum aliaque his similia quaecumque secundum exemplum proconsulum transferre permitterem, quia sciebam in urbe nostra ex eiusmodi causa collegium Pontificum adiri solere, te, domine, maximum Pontificem consulendum putavi, quid observare me velis. [x. 68 (73).]

116. Traianus Plinio s.

Durum est iniungere necessitatem provincialibus Pontificum adeundorum, si reliquias suorum propter aliquas iustas causas transferre ex loco in alium locum velint. Sequenda ergo potius tibi exempla sunt eorum qui isti provinciae praefuerunt et ex causa cuique ita aut permittendum aut negandum. [x. 69 (74).]

117. C. Plinius Traiano Imperatori.

Quaerenti mihi, domine, Prusae ubi posset balineum quod indulsisti fieri, placuit locus in quo fuit aliquando domus, ut audio, pulcra, nunc deformis ruinis. Per hoc enim consequemur, ut foedissima facies civitatis ornetur atque etiam ut ipsa civitas amplietur nec ulla aedificia tollantur, sed, quae sunt vetustate sublapsa, relaxentur in melius. Est autem huius domus conditio talis: legaverat eam Claudius Polyaenus Claudio Caesari iussitque in peristylio templum ei fieri, reliqua ex domo locari. Ex ea reditum aliquandiu civitas

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percepit: deinde paulatim partim spoliata, partim neglecta, cum peristylio domus tota conlapsa est, ac iam paene nihil ex ea nisi solum superest; quod tu, domine, sive donaveris civitati sive venire iusseris, propter opportunitatem loci pro summo munere accipiet. Ego, si permiseris, cogito in area vacua balineum conlocare, eum autem locum in quo aedificia fuerunt exedra et porticibus amplecti atque tibi consecrare, cuius beneficio elegans opus dignumque nomine tuo fiet. Exemplar testamenti, quamquam mendosum, misi tibi; ex quo cognosces multa Polyaenum in eiusdem domus ornatum reliquisse, quae, ut domus ipsa, perierunt, a me tamen, in quantum potuerit, requirentur. [x. 70 (75).]

118. Traianus Plinio s.

Possumus apud Prusenses area ista cum domo conlapsa, quam vacare scribis, ad extructionem balinei uti. Illud tamen parum expressisti an aedes in peristylio Claudio facta esset. Nam si facta est, licet conlapsa sit, religio eius occupavit solum. [x. 71 (76).]

119. C. Plinius Traiano Imperatori.

Sinopenses, domine, aqua deficiuntur; quae videtur et bona et copiosa ab sexto decimo miliario posse perduci. Est tamen statim ab capite paulo amplius mille passibus locus suspectus et mollis, quem ego interim explorari modico inpendio iussi, an recipere

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et sustinere opus possit. Pecunia curantibus nobis contracta non deerit, si tu, domine, hoc genus operis et salubritati et amoenitati valde sitientis coloniae indulseris. [x. 90 (91).]

120. Traianus Plinio s.

Ut coepisti, Secunde carissime, explora diligenter an locus ille, quem suspectum habes, sustinere opus aquaeductus possit. Neque enim dubitandum puto quin aqua perducenda sit in coloniam Sinopensem, si modo et viribus suis adsequi potest, cum plurimum ea res et salubritati et voluptati eius conlatura sit. [x. 91 (92).]

121. C. Plinius Traiano Imperatori.

Amisenorum civitas libera et foederata beneficio indulgentiae tuae legibus suis utitur. In hac datum mihi libellum ad eranos pertinentem his litteris subieci, ut tu, domine, dispiceres quid et quatenus aut permittendum aut prohibendum putares. [x. 92 (93).]

122. Traianus Plinio s.

Amisenos, quorum libellum epistulae tuae iunxeras, si legibus istorum, quibus de officio foederis utuntur, concessum est eranum habere, possumus quo minus habeant non inpedire, eo facilius, si tali conlatione non ad turbas et ad illicitos coetus sed ad sustinendam tenuiorum inopiam utuntur. In ceteris civitatibus, quae nostro iure obstrictae sunt, res huiusmodi prohibenda est. [x. 93 (94).]

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123. C. Plinius Traiano Imperatori.

Suetonium Tranquillum, probissimum, honestissimum, eruditissimum virum, et mores eius secutus et studia iam pridem, domine, in contubernium adsumpsi tantoque magis diligere coepi, quanto hunc propius inspexi. Huic ius trium liberorum necessarium faciunt duae causae: nam et iudicia amicorum promeretur et parum felix matrimonium expertus est; inpetrandumque a bonitate tua per nos habet, quod illi fortunae malignitas denegavit. Scio, domine, quantum beneficium petam, sed peto a te, cuius in omnibus desideriis meis indulgentiam experior. Potes enim colligere, quanto opere cupiam, quod non rogarem absens, si mediocriter cuperem. [x. 94 (95).]

124. Traianus Plinio s.

Quam parce haec beneficia tribuam, utique, mi Secunde carissime, haeret tibi, cum etiam in senatu adfirmare soleam non excessisse me numerum, quem apud amplissimum ordinem suffecturum mihi professus sum: tuo tamen desiderio subscripsi et dedisse me ius trium liberorum Suetonio Tranquillo ea conditione, qua adsuevi, referri in commentarios meos iussi. [x. 95(96).]

125. C. Plinius Traiano Imperatori.

Amastrianorum civitas, domine, et elegans et ornata habet inter praecipua opera pulcerrimam eandemque longissimam plateam: cuius a latere per spatium omne

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porrigitur nomine quidem flumen, re vera cloaca foedissima ac sicut turpis inmundissimo aspectu ita pestilens odore teterrimo. Quibus ex causis non minus salubritatis quam decoris interest eam contegi: quod fiet, si permiseris; curantibus nobis ne desit quoque pecunia operi tam magno quam necessario. [x. 98 (99).]

126. Traianus Plinio s.

Rationis est, mi Secunde carissime, contegi aquam istam quae per civitatem Amastrianorum fluit, si intecta salubritati obest. Pecunia ne huic operi desit, curaturum te secundum diligentiam tuam certum habeo. [x. 99 (100).]

127. C. Plinius Traiano Imperatori.

Rogatus, domine, a P. Attio Aquila, centurione cohortis sextae equestris, ut mitterem tibi libellum per quem indulgentiam pro statu filiae suae inplorat, durum putavi negare, cum scirem quantam soleres militum precibus patientiam humanitatemque praestare. [x. 106 (107).]

128. Traianus Plinio s.

Libellum P. Attii Aquilae, centurionis cohortis sextae equestris, quem mihi misisti, legi: cuius precibus motus dedi filiae eius civitatem Romanam. Libellum rescripti, quem illi redderes, misi tibi. [x. 107 (108).]

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129. C. Plinius Traiano Imperatori.

Usque in hoc tempus, domine, neque cuiquam diplomata commodavi neque in rem ullam nisi tuam misi. Quam perpetuam servationem meam quaedam necessitas rupit. Uxori enim meae audita morte avi volenti ad amitam suam excurrere usum eorum negare durum putavi, cum talis officii gratia in celeritate consisteret sciremque rationem itineris probaturum, cuius causa erat pietas. Haec tibi scripsi, quia mihi parum gratus fore videbar, si dissimulassem inter alia beneficia hoc unum quoque me debere indulgentiae tuae, quod fiducia eius, quamquam inconsulto te, non dubitavi facere quae, si consuluissem, sero fecissem. [x. 120 (121).]

130. Traianus Plinio s.

Merito habuisti, Secunde carissime, fiduciam animi mei, nec dubitandum fuisse, si exspectasses, donec me consuleres an iter uxoris tuae diplomatibus, quae officio tuo dedi, adiuvandum esset, usum eorum intentioni non profuisse, cum apud amitam suam uxor tua deberet etiam celeritate gratiam adventus sui augere. [x. 121 (122).]

131. C. Plinius Traiano Imperatori.

Sollemne est mihi, domine, omnia de quibus dubito ad te referre. Quis enim potest melius vel cunctationem meam regere vel ignorantiam extruere? Cognitionibus de Christianis interfui numquam: ideo nescio quid et quatenus aut puniri soleat aut quaeri. Nec mediocriter haesitavi sitne aliquod discrimen

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aetatum an quamlibet teneri nihil a robustioribus differant? detur paenitentiae venia an ei, qui omnino Christianus fuit, desisse non prosit? nomen ipsum, si flagitiis careat, an flagitia cohaerentia nomini puniantur? Interim in iis qui ad me tamquam Christiani deferebantur hunc sum secutus modum. Interrogavi ipsos an essent Christiani. Confitentes iterum ac tertio interrogavi, supplicium minatus: perseverantes duci iussi. Neque enim dubitabam, qualecumque esset quod faterentur, pertinaciam certe et inflexibilem obstinationem debere puniri. Fuerunt alii similis amentiae quos, quia cives Romani erant, adnotavi in urbem remittendos. Mox ipso tractatu, ut fieri solet, diffundente se crimine plures species inciderunt. Propositus est libellus sine auctore multorum nomina continens. Qui negabant esse se Christianos aut fuisse, cum praeeunte me deos appellarent et imagini tuae, quam propter hoc iusseram cum simulacris numinum adferri, ture ac vino supplicarent, praeterea male dicerent Christo, quorum nihil posse cogi dicuntur, qui sunt re vera Christiani, dimittendos esse putavi. Alii ab indice nominati esse se Christianos dixerunt et mox negaverunt; fuisse quidem, sed desisse, quidam ante plures annos, non nemo etiam ante viginti quoque. Omnes et imaginem tuam deorumque simulacra venerati sunt [ii] et Christo male dixerunt. Adfirmabant autem hanc fuisse summam vel culpae suae vel erroris, quod essent soliti stato die ante lucem convenire carmenque Christo quasi deo dicere secum invicem, seque sacramento non in scelus aliquod obstringere, sed ne furta, ne latrocinia,

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ne adulteria committerent, ne fidem fallerent, ne depositum appellati abnegarent: quibus peractis morem sibi discedendi fuisse, rursusque ad capiendum cibum, promiscuum tamen et innoxium: quod ipsum facere desisse post edictum meum, quo secundum mandata tua hetaerias esse vetueram. Quo magis necessarium credidi ex duabus ancillis, quae ministrae dicebantur, quid esset veri et per tormenta quaerere. Nihil aliud inveni quam superstitionem pravam, inmodicam. Ideo dilata cognitione ad consulendum te decucurri. Visa est enim mihi res digna consultatione, maxime propter periclitantium numerum. Multi enim omnis aetatis, omnis ordinis, utriusque sexus etiam, vocantur in periculum et vocabuntur. Neque civitates tantum sed vicos etiam atque agros superstitionis istius contagio pervagata est; quae videtur sisti et corrigi posse. Certe satis constat prope iam desolata templa coepisse celebrari et sacra sollemnia diu intermissa repeti pastumque venire victimarum, cuius adhuc rarissimus emptor inveniebatur. Ex quo facile est opinari quae turba hominum emendari possit, si sit paenitentiae locus. [x. 96 (97).]

132. Traianus Plinio s.

Actum, quem debuisti, mi Secunde, in excutiendis causis eorum, qui Christiani ad te delati fuerant, secutus es. Neque enim in universum aliquid, quod quasi certam formam habeat, constitui potest. Conquirendi non sunt: si deferantur et arguantur, puniendi sunt; ita tamen ut qui negaverit se Christianum esse idque

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re ipsa manifestum fecerit, id est supplicando diis nostris, quamvis suspectus in praeteritum, veniam ex paenitentia inpetret. Sine auctore vero propositi libelli in nullo crimine locum habere debent. Nam et pessimi exempli nec nostri saeculi est. [x. 97 (98).]

133. C. Plinius Tacito suo s.

Petis ut tibi avunculi mei exitum scribam, quo verius tradere posteris possis. Gratias ago: nam video morti eius, si celebretur a te, inmortalem gloriam esse propositam. Quamvis enim pulcerrimarum clade terrarum, ut populi, ut urbes, memorabili casu quasi semper victurus occiderit; quamvis ipse plurima opera et mansura condiderit, multum tamen perpetuitati eius scriptorum tuorum aeternitas addet. Equidem beatos puto quibus deorum munere datum est aut facere scribenda aut scribere legenda; beatissimos vero quibus utrumque. Horum in numero avunculus meus et suis libris et tuis erit. Quo libentius suscipio, deposco etiam quod iniungis.

Erat Miseni classemque imperio praesens regebat. Nonum Kal. Septembres, hora fere septima, mater mea indicat ei apparere nubem inusitata et magnitudine et specie. Usus ille sole, mox frigida, gustaverat iacens studebatque: poscit soleas, ascendit locum ex quo maxime miraculum illud conspici poterat. Nubes, incertum procul intuentibus ex quo monte (Vesuvium fuisse postea cognitum est), oriebatur, cuius similitudinem et formam non alia magis arbor quam

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pinus expresserit. Nam longissimo velut trunco elata in altum, quibusdam ramis diffundebatur, credo, quia recenti spiritu evecta, dein senescente eo destituta aut etiam pondere suo victa, in latitudinem vanescebat: candida interdum, interdum sordida et maculosa, prout terram cineremve sustulerat. Magnum propiusque noscendum, ut eruditissimo viro, visum. Iubet Liburnicam aptari: mihi, si venire una vellem, facit copiam: respondi studere me malle, et forte ipse quod scriberem dederat. Egrediebatur domo: accipit codicillos Rectinae Tasci inminenti periculo exterritae (nam villa eius subiacebat, nec ulla nisi navibus fuga): ut se tanto discrimini eriperet orabat. Vertit ille consilium et quod studioso animo inchoaverat obit maximo. Deducit quadriremes, ascendit ipse, non Rectinae modo sed multis (erat enim frequens amoenitas orae) laturus auxilium. Properat illuc unde alii fugiunt, rectumque cursum, recta gubernacula in periculum tenet, adeo solutus metu ut omnes illius mali motus, omnes figuras, ut deprenderat oculis, dictaret enotaretque. Iam navibus cinis incidebat, quo propius accederent, calidior et densior, iam pumices etiam nigrique et ambusti et fracti igne lapides; iam vadum subitum ruinaque montis litora obstantia. Cunctatus paulum an retro flecteret, mox gubernatori ut ita faceret monenti 'fortes' inquid 'fortuna iuvat: Pomponianum pete.' Stabiis erat, diremptus sinu medio; nam sensim circumactis curvatisque litoribus mare infunditur. Ibi, quamquam nondum periculo adpropinquante, conspicuo tamen, et cum cresceret, proximo,

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sarcinas contulerat in naves, certus fugae, si contrarius ventus resedisset; quo tunc avunculus meus secundissimo invectus conplectitur trepidantem, consolatur, hortatur, utque timorem eius sua securitate leniret, deferri in balineum iubet: lotus accubat, cenat aut hilaris aut, quod est aeque magnum, similis hilari. Interim e Vesuvio monte pluribus in locis latissimae flammae altaque incendia relucebant, quorum fulgor et claritas tenebris noctis excitabatur. Ille agrestium trepidatione ignes relictos desertasque villas per solitudinem ardere in remedium formidinis dictitabat. Tum se quieti dedit, et quievit verissimo quidem somno. Nam meatus animae, qui illi propter amplitudinem corporis gravior et sonantior erat, ab iis qui limini obversabantur audiebatur. Sed area ex qua diaeta adibatur ita iam cinere mixtisque pumicibus oppleta surrexerat ut, si longior in cubiculo mora, exitus negaretur. Excitatus procedit seque Pomponiano ceterisque qui pervigilaverant reddit. In commune consultant, intra tecta subsistant an in aperto vagentur. Nam crebris vastisque tremoribus tecta nutabant et quasi emota sedibus suis, nunc huc nunc illuc abire aut referri videbantur. Sub dio rursus quamquam levium exesorumque pumicum casus metuebatur; quod tamen periculorum collatio elegit. Et apud illum quidem ratio rationem, apud alios timorem timor vicit. Cervicalia capitibus inposita linteis constringunt: id munimentum adversus incidentia fuit. Iam dies alibi, illic nox omnibus noctibus nigrior densiorque; quam tamen faces multae variaque lumina solabantur.

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Placuit egredi in litus et ex proximo aspicere ecquid iam mare admitteret; quod adhuc vastum et adversum permanebat. Ibi super abiectum linteum recubans semel atque iterum frigidam aquam poposcit hausitque. Deinde flammae flammarumque praenuntius odor sulpuris alios in fugam vertunt, excitant illum. Innitens servulis duobus adsurrexit, et statim concidit, ut ego colligo, crassiore caligine spiritu obstructo clausoque stomacho, qui illi natura invalidus et angustus et frequenter aestuans erat. Ubi dies redditus (is ab eo quem novissime viderat tertius), corpus inventum integrum, inlaesum opertumque ut fuerat indutus: habitus corporis quiescenti quam defuncto similior. Interim Miseni ego et mater. Sed nihil ad historiam, nec tu aliud quam de exitu eius scire voluisti. Finem ergo faciam. Unum adiciam omnia me quibus interfueram quaeque statim, cum maxime vera memorantur, audieram persecutum. Tu potissima excerpes. Aliud est enim epistulam aliud historiam, aliud amico aliud omnibus scribere. Vale. [vi. 16.]

134. C. Plinius Tacito suo s.

Ais, te adductum litteris, quas exigenti tibi de morte avunculi mei scripsi, cupere cognoscere, quos ego Miseni relictus (id enim ingressus abruperam) non solum metus verum etiam casus pertulerim.

quamquam animus meminisse horret,
incipiam. . . .

Profecto avunculo, ipse reliquum tempus studiis (ideo enim remanseram) impendi: mox balineum, cena, so-

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mnus inquietus et brevis. Praecesserat per multos dies tremor terrae minus formidolosus, quia Campaniae solitus. Illa vero nocte ita invaluit, ut non moveri omnia sed verti crederentur. Inrumpit cubiculum meum mater: surgebam, invicem, si quiesceret, excitaturus. Residimus in area domus, quae mare a tectis modico spatio dividebat. Dubito, constantiam vocare an inprudentiam debeam; agebam enim duodevicensimum annum: posco librum Titi Livi et quasi per otium lego atque etiam, ut coeperam, excerpo. Ecce, amicus avunculi, qui nuper ad eum ex Hispania venerat, ut me et matrem sedentes, me vero etiam legentem videt, illius patientiam, securitatem meam corripit: nihilo segnius ego intentus in librum. Iam hora diei prima, et adhuc dubius et quasi languidus dies. Iam quassatis circumiacentibus tectis, quamquam in aperto loco, angusto tamen, magnus et certus ruinae metus. Tum demum excedere oppido visum: sequitur vulgus attonitum, quodque in pavore simile prudentiae, alienum consilium suo praefert, ingentique agmine abeuntes premit et impellit. Egressi tecta consistimus. Multa ibi miranda, multas formidines patimur. Nam vehicula, quae produci iusseramus, quamquam in planissimo campo, in contrarias partes agebantur, ac ne lapidibus quidem fulta in eodem vestigio quiescebant. Praeterea mare in se resorberi, et tremore terrae quasi repelli videbamus. Certe processerat litus multaque animalia maris siccis arenis detinebat. Ab altero latere nubes atra et horrenda ignei spiritus tortis vibratisque discursibus rupta, in longas flammarum

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figuras dehiscebat: fulguribus illae et similes et maiores erant. Tum vero idem ille ex Hispania amicus acrius et instantius 'si frater' inquit 'tuus, tuus avunculus vivit, vult esse vos salvos: si periit, superstites voluit: proinde quid cessatis evadere?' Respondimus non commissuros nos ut de salute illius incerti nostrae consuleremus. Non moratus ultra, proripit se effusoque cursu periculo aufertur: nec multo post illa nubes descendere in terras, operire maria. Cinxerat Capreas et absconderat: Miseni, quod procurrit abstulerat. Tum mater orare, hortari, iubere, quoquo modo fugerem: posse enim iuvenem: se et annis et corpore gravem bene morituram, si mihi causa mortis non fuisset. Ego contra salvum me, nisi una, non futurum. Deinde manum eius amplexus, addere gradum cogo: paret aegre incusatque se, quod me moretur. Iam cinis, adhuc tamen rarus; respicio; densa caligo tergis imminebat, quae nos torrentis modo infusa terrae sequebatur. 'Deflectamus' inquam, 'dum videmus, ne in via strati comitantium turba in tenebris obteramur.' Vix consederamus, et nox non qualis illunis et nubila, sed qualis in locis clausis, lumine extincto. Audires ululatus feminarum, infantium quiritatus, clamores virorum: alii parentes, alii liberos, alii coniuges vocibus requirebant, vocibus noscitabant: hi suum casum, illi suorum miserabantur: erant qui metu mortis mortem precarentur. Multi ad deos manus tollere; plures nusquam iam deos ullos, aeternamque illam et novissimam noctem mundo interpretabantur. Nec defuerunt, qui fictis mentitisque terroribus vera

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pericula augerent. Aderant qui Miseni, illud ruisse, illud ardere, falso, sed credentibus nuntiabant. Paullum reluxit; quod non dies nobis, sed adventantis ignis indicium videbatur et ignis quidem longius substitit: tenebrae rursus, cinis rursus multus et gravis: hunc identidem adsurgentes excutiebamus: operti alioqui, atque etiam oblisi pondere essemus. Possem gloriari non gemitum mihi, non vocem parum fortem in tantis periculis excidisse, nisi me cum omnibus, omnia mecum perire, misero, magno tamen mortalitatis solatio credidissem. Tandem illa caligo, tenuata quasi in fumum nebulamve discessit: mox dies verus, sol etiam effulsit, luridus tamen, qualis esse cum deficit, solet. Occursabant trepidantibus adhuc oculis mutata omnia, altoque cinere, tamquam nive, obducta. Regressi Misenum, curatis utcumque corporibus suspensam dubiamque noctem spe ac metu exegimus: metus praevalebat. Nam et tremor terrae perseverabat, et plerique lymphati terrificis vaticinationibus et sua et aliena mala ludificabantur. Nobis tamen ne tunc quidem, quanquam et expertis periculum et exspectantibus, abeundi consilium, donec de avunculo nuntius. Haec nequaquam historia digna, non scripturus, leges, et tibi scilicet, qui requisisti, imputabis; si digna ne epistula quidem videbuntur. Vale. [vi. 20.]

135. C. Plinius Baebio Macro suo s.

Pergratum est mihi quod tam diligenter libros avunculi mei lectitas, ut habere omnes velis quaerasque qui sint omnes. Fungar indicis partibus atque etiam quo

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sint ordine scripti notum tibi faciam: est enim haec quoque studiosis non iniucunda cognitio. 'De iaculatione equestri unus': hunc, cum praefectus alae militaret, pari ingenio curaque conposuit. 'De vita Pomponi Secundi duo'; a quo singulariter amatus hoc memoriae amici quasi debitum munus exsolvit. 'Bellorum Germaniae viginti'; quibus omnia quae cum Germanis gessimus bella collegit. Inchoavit, cum in Germania militaret, somnio monitus: adstitit ei quiescenti Drusi Neronis effigies, qui Germaniae latissime victor ibi periit; commendabat memoriam suam orabatque ut se ab iniuria oblivionis adsereret. 'Studiosi tres,' in sex volumina propter amplitudinem divisi, quibus oratorem ab incunabulis instituit et perficit. 'Dubii sermonis octo' scripsit sub Nerone novissimis annis, cum omne studiorum genus paulo liberius et erectius periculosum servitus fecisset. 'A fine Aufidi Bassi triginta unus.' 'Naturae historiarum triginta septem,' opus diffusum, eruditum, nec minus varium quam ipsa natura.

Miraris quod tot volumina multaque in his tam scrupulosa homo occupatus absolverit? magis miraberis, si scieris illum aliquandiu causas actitasse, decessisse anno sexto et quinquagensimo, medium tempus distentum impeditumque qua officiis maximis qua amicitia principum egisse. Sed erat acre ingenium, incredibile studium, summa vigilantia. Lucubrare Vulcanalibus incipiebat, non auspicandi causa sed studendi, statim a nocte multa; hieme vero ab hora septima, vel cum tardissime, octava, saepe sexta. Erat sane somni paratissimi, non numquam etiam inter ipsa studia in-

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stantis et deserentis. Ante lucem ibat ad Vespasianum imperatorem (nam ille quoque noctibus utebatur), inde ad delegatum sibi officium. Reversus domum, quod reliquum temporis, studiis reddebat. Post cibum saepe, quem interdiu levem et facilem veterum more sumebat, aestate, si quid otii, iacebat in sole, liber legebatur, adnotabat excerpebatque. Nihil enim legit quod non excerperet: dicere etiam solebat nullum esse librum tam malum ut non aliqua parte prodesset. Post solem plerumque frigida lavabatur: deinde gustabat dormiebatque minimum: mox quasi alio die studebat in cenae tempus. Super hanc liber legebatur, adnotabatur, et quidem cursim. Memini quendam ex amicis, cum lector quaedam perperam pronuntiasset, revocasse et repeti coëgisse, huic avunculum meum dixisse 'intellexeras nempe?' cum ille adnuisset, 'cur ergo revocabas? decem amplius versus hac tua interpellatione perdidimus.' Tanta erat parsimonia temporis.

Surgebat aestate a cena luce, hieme intra primam noctis, et tamquam aliqua lege cogente. Haec inter medios labores urbisque fremitum. In secessu solum balinei tempus studiis eximebatur: cum dico balinei, de interioribus loquor; nam dum destringitur tergiturque, audiebat aliquid aut dictabat. In itinere quasi solutus ceteris curis huic uni vacabat: ad latus notarius cum libro et pugillaribus, cuius manus hieme manicis muniebantur, ut ne caeli quidem asperitas ullum studiis tempus eriperet; qua ex causa Romae quoque sella vehebatur. Repeto me correptum ab eo cur ambularem: 'poteras' inquit 'has horas non perdere';

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nam perire omne tempus arbitrabatur quod studiis non inpenderetur. Hac intentione tot ista volumina peregit electorumque commentarios centum sexaginta mihi reliquit, opisthographos quidem et minutissime scriptos; qua ratione multiplicatur hic numerus. Referebat ipse potuisse se, cum procuraret in Hispania, vendere hos commentarios Largio Licino quadringentis milibus nummum, et tunc aliquanto pauciores erant.

Nonne videtur tibi recordanti quantum legerit, quantum scripserit, nec in officiis ullis nec in amicitia principis fuisse? Rursus, cum audis quid studiis laboris inpenderit, nec scripsisse satis nec legisse? Quid est enim quod non aut illae occupationes inpedire aut haec instantia non possit efficere? Itaque soleo ridere, cum me quidam studiosum vocant, qui, si comparer illi, sum desidiosissimus. Ego autem tantum, quem partim publica partim amicorum officia distringunt? quis ex istis qui tota vita litteris adsident, collatus illi, non quasi somno et inertiae deditus erubescat? Extendi epistulam, cum hoc solum quod requirebas scribere destinassem, quos libros reliquisset: confido tamen haec quoque tibi non minus grata quam ipsos libros futura, quae te non tantum ad legendos eos, verum etiam ad simile aliquid elaborandum, possunt aemulationis stimulis excitare. Vale. [iii. 5.]

136. C. Plinius Calvisio suo s.

Nescio an ullum iucundius tempus exegerim quam quo nuper apud Spurinnam fui, adeo quidem ut neminem magis in senectute, si modo senescere datum est,

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aemulari velim: nihil est enim illo vitae genere distinctius. Me autem, ut certus siderum cursus ita vita hominum disposita delectat, senum praesertim. Nam iuvenes confusa adhuc quaedam et quasi turbata non indecent; senibus placida omnia et ordinata conveniunt, quibus industria sera, turpis ambitio est. Hanc regulam Spurinna constantissime servat; quin etiam parva haec, parva, si non cotidie fiant, ordine quodam et velut orbe circumagit. Mane lectulo continetur, hora secunda calceos poscit, ambulat milia passuum tria nec minus animum quam corpus exercet. Si adsunt amici, honestissimi sermones explicantur: si non, liber legitur; interdum etiam praesentibus amicis, si tamen illi non gravantur. Deinde considit, et liber rursus aut sermo libro potior: mox vehiculum ascendit, adsumit uxorem singularis exempli vel aliquem amicorum, ut me proxime. Quam pulcrum illud, quam dulce secretum! quantum ibi antiquitatis! quae facta, quos viros audias! quibus praeceptis imbuare! quamvis ille hoc temperamentum modestiae suae indixerit, ne praecipere videatur. Peractis septem milibus passuum iterum ambulat mille, iterum residit vel se cubiculo ac stilo reddit. Scribit enim, et quidem utraque lingua, lyrica doctissima: mira illis dulcedo, mira suavitas, mira hilaritas, cuius gratiam cumulat sanctitas scribentis. Ubi hora balinei nuntiata est (est autem hieme nona, aestate octava), in sole, si caret vento, ambulat nudus. Deinde movetur pila vehementer et diu: nam hoc quoque exercitationis genere pugnat cum senectute. Lotus accubat et paulisper cibum differt: interim audit legen-

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tem remissius aliquid et dulcius. Per hoc omne tempus liberum est amicis vel eadem facere vel alia, si malint. Adponitur cena non minus nitida quam frugi in argento puro et antiquo: sunt in usu et Corinthia, quibus delectatur nec adficitur. Frequenter comoedis cena distinguitur, ut voluptates quoque studiis condiantur. Sumit aliquid de nocte et aestate: nemini hoc longum est; tanta comitate convivium trahitur. Inde illi post septimum et septuagensimum annum aurium oculorum vigor integer, inde agile et vividum corpus solaque ex senectute prudentia. Hanc ego vitam voto et cogitatione praesumo, ingressurus avidissime, ut primum ratio aetatis receptui canere permiserit. Interim mille laboribus conteror, quorum mihi et solacium et exemplum est idem Spurinna: nam ille quoque, quoad honestum fuit, obiit officia, gessit magistratus, provincias rexit, multoque labore hoc otium meruit. Igitur eundem mihi cursum, eundem terminum statuo, idque iam nunc apud te subsigno, ut, si me longius evehi videris, in ius voces ad hanc epistulam meam et quiescere iubeas, cum inertiae crimen effugero. Vale. [iii. 1.]

137. C. Plinius Gallo suo s.

Miraris cur me Laurentinum vel, si ita mavis, Laurens meum tanto opere delectet: desines mirari, cum cognoveris gratiam villae, opportunitatem loci, litoris spatium. Decem et septem milibus passuum ab urbe secessit, ut, peractis quae agenda fuerint, salvo iam et composito die possis ibi manere. Aditur non una

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via; nam et Laurentina et Ostiensis eodem ferunt, sed Laurentina a quarto decimo lapide, Ostiensis ab undecimo relinquenda est. Utrimque excipit iter aliqua ex parte arenosum, iunctis paulo gravius et longius, equo breve et molle. Varia hinc atque inde facies: nam modo occurrentibus, silvis via coartatur, modo latissimis pratis diffunditur et patescit; multi greges ovium, multa ibi equorum boum armenta, quae, montibus hieme depulsa, herbis et tepore verno nitescunt.

Villa usibus capax, non sumptuosa tutela. Cuius in prima parte atrium frugi, nec tamen sordidum; deinde porticus in D litterae similitudinem circumactae, quibus parvula sed festiva area includitur. Egregium hae adversus tempestates receptaculum: nam specularibus ac multo magis imminentibus tectis muniuntur. Est contra medias cavaedium hilare; mox triclinium satis pulchrum, quod in litus excurrit, ac si quando Africo mare inpulsum est, fractis iam et novissimis fluctibus leviter adluitur. Undique valvas aut fenestras non minores valvis habet, atque ita a lateribus, a fronte quasi tria maria prospectat; a tergo cavaedium, porticum, aream, porticum rursus, mox atrium, silvas et longinquos respicit montes. Huius a laeva retractius paulo cubiculum est amplum, deinde aliud minus, quod altera fenestra admittit orientem, occidentem altera retinet; hac et subiacens mare longius quidem, sed securius intuetur. Huius cubiculi et triclini illius obiectu includitur angulus, qui purissimum solem continet et accendit. Hoc hibernaculum, hoc etiam gymnasium meorum est: ibi omnes silent venti ex-

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ceptis, qui nubilum inducunt et serenum ante quam usum loci eripiunt. Adnectitur angulo cubiculum in hapsida curvatum, quod ambitum solis fenestris omnibus sequitur. Parieti eius in bibliothecae speciem armarium insertum est, quod non legendos libros, sed lectitandos capit. Adhaeret dormitorium membrum transitu interiacente, qui suspensus et tubulatus, conceptum vaporem salubri temperamento huc illuc digerit et ministrat. Reliqua pars lateris huius servorum libertorumque usibus detinetur, plerisque tam mundis, ut accipere hospites possint. Ex alio latere cubiculum est politissimum; deinde vel cubiculum grande vel modica cenatio, quae plurimo sole, plurimo mari lucet; post hanc cubiculum cum procoetone, altitudine aestivum, munimentis hibernum: est enim subductum omnibus ventis. Huic cubiculo aliud et procoeton communi pariete iunguntur. Inde balnei cella frigidaria spatiosa et effusa, cuius in contrariis parietibus duo baptisteria, velut eiecta sinuantur, abunde capacia, si mare in proximo cogites. Adiacet unctorium, hypocauston, adiacet propnigeon balinei, mox duae cellae, magis elegantes quam sumptuosae: cohaeret calida piscina mirifica, ex qua natantes mare aspiciunt, nec procul sphaeristerium, quod calidissimo soli, inclinato iam die occurrit. Hic turris erigitur, sub qua diaetae duae; totidem in ipsa, praeterea cenatio, quae latissimum mare, longissimum litus, villas amoenissimas prospicit. Est et alia turris: in hac cubiculum, in quo sol nascitur conditurque: lata post apotheca et horreum: sub hoc triclinium, quod turbati maris non

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nisi fragorem et sonum patitur, eumque iam languidum et desinentem; hortum et gestationem videt, qua hortus includitur.

Gestatio buxo aut rore marino, ubi deficit buxus, ambitur: nam buxus, qua parte defenditur tectis, abunde viret; aperto caelo apertoque vento et quamquam longinqua aspergine maris inarescit. Adiacet gestationi interiore circumitu vinea tenera et umbrosa, nudisque etiam pedibus mollis et cedens. Hortum morus et ficus frequens vestit, quarum arborum illa vel maxime ferax terra est, malignior ceteris. Hac non deteriore quam maris facie cenatio remota a mari fruitur: cingitur diaetis duabus a tergo, quarum fenestris subiacet vestibulum villae et hortus alius pinguis et rusticus. Hinc cryptoporticus prope publici operis extenditur. Utrimque fenestrae, a mari plures, ab horto pauciores, sed alternis singulae. Hae, cum serenus dies et inmotus, omnes, cum hinc vel inde ventus inquietus, qua venti quiescunt, sine iniuria patent. Ante cryptoporticum xystus violis odoratus: teporem solis infusi repercussu cryptoporticus auget, quae ut tenet solem, sic aquilonem inhibet, summovetque, quantumque caloris ante, tantum retro frigoris. Similiter Africum sistit, atque ita diversissimos ventos, alium alio latere frangit et finit. Haec iucunditas eius hieme, maior aestate. Nam ante meridiem xystum, post meridiem gestationis hortique proximam partem umbra sua temperat; quae, ut dies crevit decrevitve, modo brevior modo longior hac vel illa cadit. Ipsa vero cryptoporticus tum maxime caret sole, cum ardentissimus culmini eius

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insistit. Ad hoc patentibus fenestris favonios accipit transmittitque, nec umquam aëre pigro et manente ingravescit. In capite xysti deinceps cryptoporticus, horti diaeta est, amores mei; re vera amores: ipse posui. In hac heliocaminus quidem alia xystum, alia mare, utraque solem; cubiculum autem valvis cryptoporticum, fenestra prospicit mare. Contra parietem medium zotheca perquam eleganter recedit, quae specularibus et velis obductis reductisve modo adicitur cubiculo, modo aufertur. Lectum et duas cathedras capit: a pedibus mare, a tergo villae, a capite silvae: tot facies locorum totidem fenestris et distinguit et miscet. Iunctum est cubiculum noctis et somni. Non illud voces servulorum, non maris murmur, non tempestatum motus, non fulgurum lumen ac ne diem quidem sentit, nisi fenestris apertis. Tam alti abditique secreti illa ratio, quod interiacens andron parietem cubiculi hortique distinguit atque ita omnem sonum media inanitate consumit. Applicitum est cubiculo hypocauston perexiguum, quod angusta fenestra suppositum calorem, ut ratio exigit, aut effundit aut retinet. Procoeton inde et cubiculum porrigitur in solem; quem orientem statim exceptum ultra meridiem, obliquum quidem, sed tamen servat. In hanc ego diaetam, cum me recepi, abesse mihi etiam a villa mea videor, magnamque eius voluptatem, praecipue Saturnalibus, capio, cum reliqua pars tecti, licentia dierum, festisque clamoribus personat: nam nec ipse meorum lusibus, nec illi studiis meis obstrepunt. Haec utilitas, haec amoenitas deficitur aqua salienti,

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sed puteos ac potius fontes habet: sunt enim in summo. Et omnino litoris illius mira natura: quocumque loco moveris humum, obvius et paratus humor occurrit, isque sincerus ac ne leviter quidem tanta maris vicinitate corruptus. Suggerunt adfatim ligna proximae silvae: ceteras copias Ostiensis colonia ministrat. Frugi quidem homini sufficit etiam vicus, quem una villa discernit: in hoc balnea meritoria tria, magna commoditas, si forte balneum domi vel subitus adventus vel brevior mora calfacere dissuadeat. Litus ornant varietate gratissima nunc continua, nunc intermissa tecta villarum, quae praestant multarum urbium faciem, sive mari sive ipso litore utare; quod non numquam longa tranquillitas mollit, saepius frequens et contrarius fluctus indurat. Mare non sane pretiosis piscibus abundat; soleas tamen et squillas optimas egerit. Villa vero nostra etiam mediterraneas copias praestat, lac in primis: nam illuc e pascuis pecora conveniunt, si quando aquam umbramve sectantur. Iustisne de causis iam tibi videor incolere, inhabitare, diligere secessum, quem tu nimis urbanus es nisi concupiscis? Atque utinam concupiscas! ut tot tantisque dotibus villulae nostrae maxima commendatio ex tuo contubernio accedat. Vale. [ii. 17.]

138. C. Plinius Domitio Apollinari suo s.

Amavi curam et sollicitudinem tuam, quod, cum audisses me aestate Tuscos meos petiturum, ne facerem suasisti, dum putas insalubres. Est sane gravis et

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pestilens ora Tuscorum, quae per litus extenditur: sed hi procul a mari recesserunt; quin etiam Appennino, saluberrimo montium, subiacent. Atque adeo ut omnem pro me metum ponas, accipe temperiem caeli, regionis situm, villae amoenitatem; quae et tibi auditu et mihi relatu iucunda erunt. Caelum est hieme frigidum et gelidum; myrtos, oleas, quaeque alia adsiduo tepore laetantur, aspernatur ac respuit: laurum tamen patitur atque etiam nitidissimam profert, interdum, sed non saepius quam sub urbe nostra, necat. Aestatis mira clementia: semper aër spiritu aliquo movetur; frequentius tamen auras quam ventos habet. Hinc senes multi: videas avos proavosque iam iuvenum, audias fabulas veteres sermonesque maiorum, cumque veneris illo, putes alio te saeculo natum. Regionis forma pulcerrima. Imaginare amphitheatrum aliquod immensum et quale sola rerum natura possit effingere: lata et diffusa planities montibus cingitur, montes summa sui parte procera nemora et antiqua habent. Frequens ibi et varia venatio. Inde caeduae silvae cum ipso monte descendunt: has inter pingues terrenique colles (neque enim facile usquam saxum, etiam si quaeratur, occurrit) planissimis campis fertilitate non cedunt opimamque messem serius tantum, sed non minus percoquunt. Sub his per latus omne vineae porriguntur unamque faciem longe lateque contexunt; quarum a fine imoque quasi margine arbusta nascuntur. Prata inde campique: campi, quos non nisi ingentes boves et fortissima aratra perfringunt. Tantis glaebis tenacissimum solum, cum primum prosecatur, adsurgit, ut

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nono demum sulco perdometur. Prata florida et gemmea trifolium aliasque herbas teneras semper et molles et quasi novas alunt. Cuncta enim perennibus rivis nutriuntur: sed ubi aquae plurimum, palus nulla, quia devexa terra, quidquid liquoris accepit nec absorbuit, effundit in Tiberim. Medios ille agros secat, navium patiens, omnesque fruges devehit in urbem, hieme dumtaxat et vere; aestate summittitur, immensique fluminis nomen arenti alveo deserit, autumno resumit. Magnam capies voluptatem, si hunc regionis situm ex monte prospexeris. Neque enim terras tibi sed formam aliquam ad eximiam pulcritudinem pictam, videberis cernere: ea varietate, ea descriptione, quocumque inciderint oculi, reficientur.

Villa in colle imo sita prospicit quasi ex summo: ita leniter et sensim clivo fallente consurgit ut, cum ascendere te non putes, sentias ascendisse. A tergo Appenninum, sed longius habet: accipit ab hoc auras quamlibet sereno et placido die, non tamen acres et immodicas, sed spatio ipso lassas et infractas. Magna sui parte meridiem spectat, aestivumque solem ab hora sexta, hibernum aliquanto maturius, quasi invitat in porticum latam et pro modo longam. Multa in hac membra; atrium etiam ex more veterum. Ante porticum xystus in plurimas species distinctus concisusque buxo: demissus inde pronusque pulvinus, cui bestiarum effigies invicem adversas buxus inscripsit: acanthus in plano mollis et, paene dixerim, liquidus. Ambit hunc ambulatio pressis varieque tonsis viridibus inclusa: ab his gestatio in modum circi, quae buxum multiformem

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humilesque et retentas manu arbusculas circumit. Omnia maceria muniuntur: hanc gradata buxus operit et subtrahit. Pratum inde non minus natura quam superiora illa arte visendum: campi deinde porro multaque alia prata et arbusta.

A capite porticus triclinium excurrit: valvis xystum desinentem et protinus pratum multumque ruris videt, fenestris hac latus xysti et quod prosilit villae, hac adiacentis hippodromi nemus comasque prospectat. Contra mediam fere porticum diaeta paulum recedit, cingit areolam, quae quattuor platanis inumbratur. Inter has marmoreo labro aqua exundat circumiectasque platanos et subiecta platanis leni aspergine fovet. Est in hac diaeta dormitorium cubiculum, quod diem, clamorem, sonum excludit, iunctaque ei cotidiana amicorum cenatio, quae areolam illam, porticum aliam, eademque omnia, quae porticus, aspicit. Est et aliud cubiculum a proxuma platano viride et umbrosum, marmore excultum podio tenus; nec cedit gratiae marmoris ramos insidentesque ramis aves imitata pictura: fonticulus in hoc, in fonte crater; circa sipunculi plures miscent iucundissimum murmur. In cornu porticus amplissimum cubiculum a triclinio occurrit; aliis fenestris xystum, aliis dispicit pratum; sed ante piscinam, quae fenestris servit ac subiacet, strepitu visuque iucundam. Nam ex edito desiliens aqua, suscepta marmore albescit. Idem cubiculum hieme tepidissimum, quia plurimo sole perfunditur. Cohaeret hypocauston, et si dies nubilus, inmisso vapore solis vicem supplet. Inde apodyterium balinei laxum et hilare excipit cella frigidaria, in qua

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baptisterium amplum atque opacum. Si natare latius aut tepidius velis, in area piscina est, in proxumo puteus, ex quo possis rursus adstringi, si paeniteat teporis. Frigidariae cellae connectitur media, cui sol benignissime praesto est; caldariae magis: prominet enim. In hac tres descensiones, duae in sole, tertia a sole longius, a luce non longius. Apodyterio superpositum est sphaeristerium, quod plura genera exercitationis pluresque circulos capit. Non procul a balineo scalae, quae in cryptoporticum ferunt, prius ad diaetas tres. Harum alia areolae illi in qua platani quattuor, alia prato, alia vineis imminet, diversasque caeli partes ut prospectus habet. In summa cryptoporticu cubiculum ex ipsa cryptoporticu excisum, quod hippodromum, vineas, montes intuetur. Hinc oritur diaeta, quae villae hippodromum adnectit. Iungitur cubiculum obvium soli, maxime hiberno. Haec facies, hic usus a fronte. A latere aestiva cryptoporticus in edito posita, quae non aspicere vineas, sed tangere videtur: in media triclinium saluberrimum adflatum ex Appenninis vallibus recipit: post latissimis fenestris vineas, valvis aeque vineas, sed per cryptoporticum, quasi admittit. A latere triclinii, quod fenestris caret, scalae convivio utilia secretiore ambitu suggerunt. In fine cubiculum, cui non minus iucundum prospectum cryptoporticus ipsa, quam vineae praebent. Subest cryptoporticus subterraneae similis; aestate incluso frigore riget contentaque aëre suo, nec desiderat auras nec admittit. Post utramque cryptoporticum, unde triclinium desinit, incipit porticus, ante

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medium diem hiberna, inclinato die aestiva. Hac adeuntur diaetae duae, quarum in altera cubicula quattuor altera tria, ut circumit sol, aut sole utuntur aut umbra.

Hanc dispositionem amoenitatemque tectorum longe longeque praecedit hippodromus. Medius patescit statimque intrantium oculis totus offertur, platanis circumitur. Illae hedera vestiuntur, utque summae suis, ita imae alienis frondibus virent: hedera truncum et ramos pererrat vicinasque platanos transitu suo copulat: has buxus interiacet. Exteriores buxos circumvenit laurus umbraeque platanorum suam confert. Rectus hippodromi limes in extrema parte hemicyclio frangitur mutatque faciem: cupressis ambitur et tegitur, densiore umbra opacior nigriorque; interioribus circulis (sunt enim plures) purissimum diem recipit. Inde etiam rosas effert umbrarumque frigus non ingrato sole distinguit. Finito vario illo multiplicique curvamine recto limiti redditur, nec huic uni. Nam viae plures, intercedentibus buxis, dividuntur. Alibi pratulum, alibi ipsa buxus intervenit in formas mille descripta, litteras interdum, quae modo nomen domini dicunt, modo artificis: alternis metulae surgunt, alternis inserta sunt poma, et in opere urbanissimo subita velut inlati ruris imitatio. Medium spatium brevioribus utrimque platanis adornatur: post has acanthus hinc inde lubricus et flexuosus, deinde plures figurae pluraque nomina. In capite stibadium candido marmore vite protegitur: vitem quattuor columellae Carystiae subeunt. Ex stibadio aqua, velut expressa cubantium pondere, sipunculis effluit; cavato lapide suscipitur, gracili mar-

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more continetur, atque ita occulte temperatur, ut impleat, nec redundet. Gustatorium graviorque cena margini inponitur, levior naucularum et avium figuris innatans circumit. Contra fons egerit aquam et recipit: nam expulsa in altum in se cadit iunctisque hiatibus et absorbetur et tollitur. E regione stibadi adversum cubiculum tantum stibadio reddit ornatus, quantum accipit ab illo. Marmore splendet, valvis in viridia prominet et exit, alia viridia superioribus inferioribusque fenestris suscipit dispicitque. Mox zothecula refugit quasi in cubiculum idem atque aliud. Lectus hic et undique fenestrae, et tamen lumen obscurum umbra premente. Nam laetissima vitis per omne tectum in culmen nititur et ascendit. Non secus ibi quam in nemore iaceas, imbrem tantum tamquam in nemore non sentias. Hic quoque fons nascitur simulque subducitur. Sunt locis pluribus disposita sedilia e marmore, quae ambulatione fessos, ut cubiculum ipsum, iuvant. Fonticuli sedilibus adiacent; per totum hippodromum inducti fistulis strepunt rivi, et qua manus duxit sequuntur. His nunc illa viridia, nunc haec, interdum simul omnia lavantur.

Vitassem iam dudum, ne viderer argutior, nisi proposuissem omnes angulos tecum epistula circumire. Neque enim verebar ne laboriosum esset legenti tibi, quod visenti non fuisset, praesertim cum interquiescere, si liberet, depositaque epistula quasi residere, saepius posses. Praeterea indulsi amori meo: amo enim quae maxima ex parte ipse inchoavi aut inchoata percolui. In summa, (cur enim non aperiam tibi vel iudicium

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meum vel errorem ?) primum ego officium scriptoris existimo, ut titulum suum legat atque identidem interroget se, quid coeperit scribere; sciatque, si materiae immoratur, non esse longum; longissimum, si aliquid arcessit atque attrahit. Vides quot versibus Homerus, quot Vergilius arma, hic Aeneae, Achillis ille, describat: brevis tamen uterque est, quia facit, quod instituit. Vides, ut Aratus minutissima etiam sidera consectetur et colligat: modum tamen servat. Non enim excursus hic eius, sed opus ipsum est. Similiter nos, ut parva magnis, cum totam villam oculis tuis subicere conamur, si nihil inductum et quasi devium loquimur, non epistula quae describit sed villa quae describitur magna est. Verum illuc, unde coepi, ne secundum legem meam iure reprehendar, si longior fuero in hoc, in quod excessi. Habes causas, cur ego Tuscos meos Tusculanis, Tiburtinis, Praenestinisque praeponam. Nam super illa, quae rettuli, altius ibi otium et pinguius eoque securius: nulla necessitas togae, nemo accersitor ex proximo: placida omnia et quiescentia; quod ipsum salubritati regionis ut purius caelum, ut aër liquidior accedit. Ibi animo, ibi corpore maxime valeo. Nam studiis animum, venatu corpus exerceo. Mei quoque nusquam salubrius degunt: usque adhuc certe neminem ex iis, quos eduxeram mecum (venia sit dicto), ibi amisi. Di modo in posterum hoc mihi gaudium, hanc gloriam loco servent. Vale. [v. 6.]

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139. C. Plinius Fusco suo s.

Quaeris quemadmodum in Tuscis diem aestate disponam. Evigilo cum libuit, plerumque circa horam primam, saepe ante, tardius raro: clausae fenestrae manent. Mire enim silentio et tenebris ab iis quae avocant abductus, et liber et mihi relictus, non oculos animo sed animum oculis sequor, qui eadem quae mens vident, quotiens non vident alia. Cogito, si quid in manibus, cogito ad verbum scribenti emendantique similis, nunc pauciora nunc plura, ut vel difficile vel facile componi tenerive potuerunt. Notarium voco et die admisso quae formaveram dicto: abit, rursusque revocatur, rursusque dimittitur. Ubi hora quarta vel quinta (neque enim certum dimensumque tempus), ut dies suasit, in xystum me vel cryptoporticum confero, reliqua meditor et dicto. Vehiculum ascendo. Ibi quoque idem quod ambulans aut iacens. Durat intentio mutatione ipsa refecta: paulum redormio, dein ambulo, mox orationem Graecam Latinamve clare et intente, non tam vocis causa quam stomachi, lego: pariter tamen et illa firmatur. Iterum ambulo, ungor, exerceor, lavor. Cenanti mihi, si cum uxore vel paucis, liber legitur: post cenam comoedus aut lyristes: mox cum meis ambulo, quorum in numero sunt eruditi. Ita variis sermonibus vespera extenditur, et quamquam longissimus dies cito conditur. Non numquam ex hoc ordine aliqua mutantur. Nam si diu iacui vel ambulavi, post somnum demum lectionemque, non vehiculo, sed (quod brevius, quia velocius) equo gestor. Inter-

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veniunt amici ex proximis oppidis, partemque diei ad se trahunt, interdumque lassato mihi opportuna interpellatione subveniunt. Venor aliquando; sed non sine pugillaribus, ut, quamvis nihil ceperim, nonnihil referam. Datur et colonis (ut videtur ipsis) non satis temporis, quorum mihi agrestes querelae litteras nostras et haec urbana opera commendant. Vale. [ix. 36.]

140. C. Plinius Fusco suo s.

Scribis pergratas tibi fuisse litteras meas, quibus cognovisti quemadmodum in Tuscis otium aestatis exigerem: requiris quid ex hoc in Laurentino hieme permutem. Nihil, nisi quod meridianus somnus eximitur multumque de nocte vel ante vel post diem sumitur, et si agendi necessitas instat, quae frequens hieme, non iam comoedo vel lyristae post cenam locus, sed illa quae dictavi identidem retractantur, ac simul memoriae frequenti emendatione proficitur. Habes aestate hieme consuetudinem: nunc addas huc licet ver et autumnum, quae inter hiemem aestatemque media, ut nihil de die perdunt, ita de nocte parvulum adquirunt. Vale. [ix. 40.]

141. C. Plinius Romano suo s.

Vidistine aliquando Clitumnum fontem? Si nondum (et puto nondum; alioqui narrasses mihi), vide, quem ego (paenitet tarditatis) proxime vidi. Modicus collis adsurgit, antiqua cupresso nemorosus et opacus. Hunc

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subter exit fons et exprimitur pluribus venis sed inparibus, eluctatusque quem facit gurgitem lato gremio patescit purus et vitreus, ut numerare iactas stipes et relucentes calculos possis. Inde non loci devexitate sed ipsa sui copia et quasi pondere inpellitur. Fons adhuc et iam amplissimum flumen atque etiam navium patiens, quas obvias quoque et contrario nisu in diversa tendentes transmittit et perfert, adeo validus ut illa qua properat ipse, quamquam per solum planum, remis non adiuvetur, idem aegerrime remis contisque superetur adversus. Iucundum utrumque per iocum ludumque fluitantibus, ut flexerint cursum, laborem otio, otium labore variare. Ripae fraxino multa, multa populo vestiuntur, quas perspicuus amnis ut mersas viridi imagine adnumerat. Rigor aquae certaverit nivibus, nec color cedit. Adiacet templum priscum et religiosum: stat Clitumnus ipse amictus ornatusque praetexta: praesens numen atque etiam fatidicum indicant sortes. Sparsa sunt circa sacella complura totidemque dii. Sua cuique veneratio, suum nomen, quibusdam vero etiam fontes. Nam praeter illum quasi parentem ceterorum sunt minores capite discreti; sed flumini miscentur, quod ponte transmittitur. Is terminus sacri profanique. In superiore parte navigare tantum, infra etiam natare concessum. Balineum Hispellates, quibus illum locum divus Augustus dono dedit, publice praebent, praebent hospitium. Nec desunt villae, quae secutae fluminis amoenitatem margini insistunt. In summa, nihil erit ex quo non capias voluptatem. Nam studebis quoque; leges multa multorum omnibus colum-

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nis, omnibus parietibus inscripta quibus fons ille deusque celebratur. Plura laudabis, nonnulla ridebis; quamquam tu vero, quae tua humanitas, nulla ridebis. Vale. [viii. 8.]

142. C. Plinius Gallo suo s.

Ad quae noscenda iter ingredi, transmittere mare solemus, ea sub oculis posita neglegimus, seu quia ita natura comparatum ut proximorum incuriosi longinqua sectemur, seu quod omnium rerum cupido languescit, cum facilis occasio, seu quod differimus tamquam saepe visuri quod datur videre, quotiens velis cernere. Quacumque de causa, permulta in urbe nostra iuxtaque urbem non oculis modo sed ne auribus quidem novimus, quae si tulisset Achaia, Aegyptos, Asia aliave quaelibet miraculorum ferax commendatrixque terra, audita, perlecta lustrata haberemus. Ipse certe nuper quod nec audieram ante nec videram audivi pariter et vidi. Exegerat prosocer meus ut Amerina praedia sua inspicerem. Haec perambulanti mihi ostenditur subiacens lacus nomine Vadimonis: simul quaedam incredibilia narrantur. Perveni ad ipsum. Lacus est in similitudinem iacentis rotae circumscriptus et undique aequalis: nullus sinus, obliquitas nulla, omnia dimensa, paria et quasi artificis manu cavata et excisa. Color caerulo albidior, viridior et pressior, sulfuris odor saporque medicatus, vis, qua fracta solidantur. Spatium modicum, quod tamen sentiat ventos et fluctibus intumescat. Nulla in hoc navis (sacer enim), sed innatant insulae, herbidae omnes harundine et iunco,

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quaeque alia fecundior palus ipsaque illa extremitas lacus effert. Sua cuique figura ut modus: cunctis margo derasus, quia frequenter vel litori vel sibi inlisae terunt terunturque. Par omnibus altitudo, par levitas; quippe in speciem carinae humili radice descendunt. Haec ab omni latere perspicitur eademque suspensa pariter et mersa. Interdum iunctae copulataeque et continenti similes sunt, interdum discordantibus ventis digeruntur, non numquam destitutae tranquillitate singulae fluitant. Saepe minores maioribus velut cumbulae onerariis adhaerescunt, saepe inter se maiores minoresque quasi cursum certamenque desumunt; rursus omnes in eundem locum adpulsae, qua steterunt promovent terram, et modo hac modo illa lacum reddunt auferuntque; ac tum demum, cum medium tenuere, non contrahunt. Constat pecora herbas secuta sic in insulas illas ut in extremam ripam procedere solere nec prius intellegere mobile solum, quam litori abrepta quasi inlata et inposita circumfusum undique lacum paveant; mox quo tulerit ventus egressa, non magis se descendisse sentire, quam senserint ascendisse. Idem lacus in flumen egeritur, quod, ubi se paulisper oculis dedit, specu mergitur alteque conditum meat, ac si quid, antequam subduceretur, accepit, servat et profert. Haec tibi scripsi, quia nec minus ignota quam mihi nec minus grata credebam. Nam te quoque, ut me, nihil aeque ac naturae opera delectant. Vale. [viii. 20.]

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NOTES

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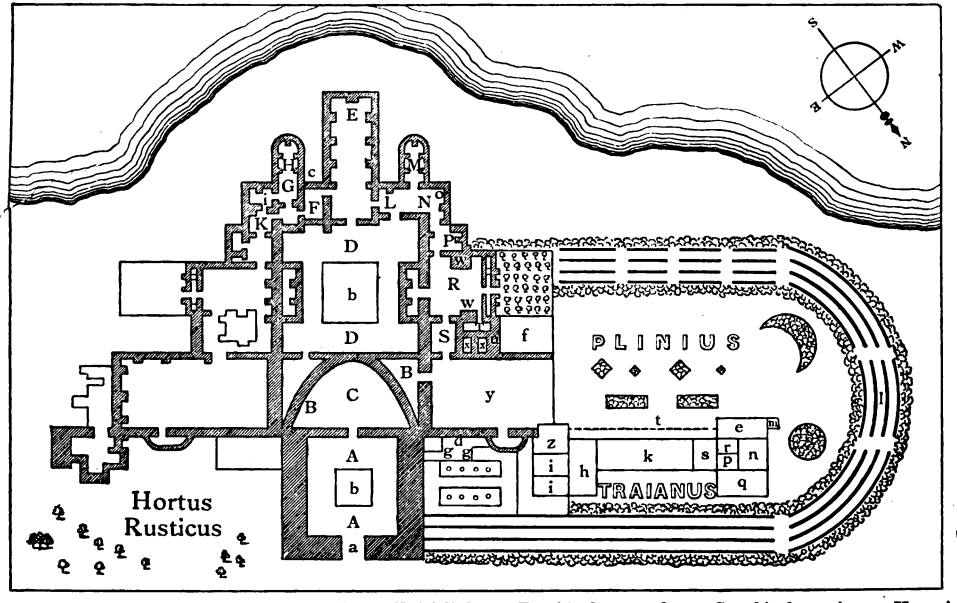

A, atrium. B, porticus. C, area. D, cavaedium. E, triclinium. F, cubiculum amplum. G, cubiculum minus. H, apsis. I, transitus. K, dormitorium. L, cubiculum politissimum. M, cenatio. N, cubiculum. O, procoeton. P, cubiculum. Q, procoeton. R, cella frigidaria. S, unctorium. T, hypocauston. U, propnigeion. W, baptisteria. X, cellae. Y, sphaeristerium. Z, triclinium.——a, vestibulum. b, impluvium. c, hibernaculum. d, turris. e, heliocaminus. f, calida piscina. g, diaitae duo. h, cenatio remota. i, diaitae duo. k, cryptoporticus. l, gestatio. m, zotheca. n, cubiculum noctis. p, procoeton. q, cubiculum. r, hypocauston. s, cubiculum. t, xystus.

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NOTES

Words or *uses of words* marked with an asterisk * are post-Augustan.

1. (i. 1.) Pliny dedicates his collected letters to Septicius.

Septicio. C. Septicius Clarus is elsewhere spoken of by Pliny as a man 'quo nihil verius, nihil simplicius, nihil candidius, nihil fidelius novi.' He rose to the position of Commander of the Royal Body-guard (Praefectus Praetorio) under Hadrian.

s. = *salutem.*

2. **publicarem,** 'publish'* (in earlier Latin, 'confiscate').

2. (vi. 7.) An affectionate letter to his wife.

Calpurniae. Calpurnia, granddaughter of Calpurnius Fabatus; cf. 28. Pliny's second wife was much younger than her husband. She was at this time absent in Campania for her health.

2. **quod teneas.** *Lat. Prim.* § 467.

3. **in vestigio meo,** 'in my place,' often used of the mark left by a sleeper on the bed; cf. Propert. iii. 21. 35, 'apparent non ulla toro vestigia presso,' also Cic. *Verr.* iii. 34.

4. **quod requiris.** *Lat. Prim.* § 416.

conloces, 'take' or 'put to bed' (hence French *coucher*).

9. **ita delectet ut,** 'only delights me to torture me.' The *limiting* force of *ut* is closely allied to the *consecutive.* Bradley's *Arnold*, § 111.

3. (vii. 5.) Another letter to his wife, in the s
strain as the first. tantum
.eponatis.'

1. **desiderio tui.** *Lat. Prim.* § 264.

3. **in imagine tua,** 'in thinking of you.'

7. **excluso,** 'one banished' from the sight of his mis' his writing

8. **litibus.** Pliny often alludes to his labours as
behalf of his friends.

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4. (ix. 35.) Pliny regrets that he has been too busy to read a work submitted to him. He warns the author against excessive elaboration.

3. **cum cupiam.** *Lat. Prim.* § 448, note 2.
5. **vacuo animo**: cf. Phaed. *Fab.* iii. prol. :

> 'Phaedri libellos legere si desideras,
> Vaces oportet, Eutyche, a negotiis,
> Ut liber animus sentiat vim carminis.'

7. **modus**: cf. Cic. *Orat.* 73, 'suus cuique modus est, tamen magis offendat nimium quam parum.'
9. **nec . . . et.** *Nec* followed by *et* is not uncommon. Cf. Cic. *Fam.* iv. 6, 'homo nec a me alienus et tibi amicissimus.'

5. (ii. 8.) A letter to a friend and fellow-townsman expressing the writer's longing to get away from town.

1. **studes?** 'are you engaged in study*?' The first interrogative is often omitted, especially if more than one alternative is suggested.
2. **Larium nostrum.** Pliny was born at Novum Comum, and possessed several villas on the Larian lake (Como).
3. **lacus piscem**: *sc.* suggerit.
5. **non possum dicere,** 'far be it that I should say.' *Possum* in the sense of 'ought' occurs Cic. *Att.* iii. 15. 8.

6. (vi. 14.) Pliny accepts an invitation to stay with a friend on condition that he shall not be 'amused.'

Maurico: the Junius Mauricus of whom an anecdote is told in a later letter. He was banished by Domitian but recalled by Nerva.

1. **Formianum,** 'your villa at Formiae.'
3. **mare et litus.** The situation of Formiae was very beautiful. Cf. Mart. x. 30, 'o temperatae dulce Formiae litus.'
4. **libertatem**: *i.e.* 'potestas vivendi ut velis.' Cf. Cic. *Parad.* v. 1.
6. **stomachi,** 'taste,' but generally used by Cicero in a bad sense: 'stomachum movere,' disgust. Cf. Cic. *Fam.* vii. 1.

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7. (ix. 32.) Pliny makes his holiday an excuse for writing short letters and asking for long ones.

2. **fit ut.** *Lat. Prim.* § 415.

8. (i. 11.) Fabius Justus is desired to write more frequently.

Fabio. This was the Fabius to whom Tacitus dedicated his *Dialogus de Oratoribus.*

1. **olim,** 'for a long while'*, where earlier Latin uses *jamdudum.*
2. **hoc ipsum scribe:** an imitation of Cicero, in whose letters the same idea occurs more than once. Cf. *Fam.* xvi. 26; *Att.* iv. 8.
3. **priores:** cf. Senec. *Ep.* xv., 'Mos antiquis fuit usque ad meam servatus aetatem, primis epistulae verbis adicere, si vales bene est.'

9. (v. 18.) A letter congratulating a friend on his pleasant surroundings.

1. **Bene est:** cf. Hor. 2 *Sat.* ii. 120, 'ac mihi . . . bene erat non piscibus urbe petitis, Sed pullo.'
3. **dubito esse:** the infinitive is not found after *dubito,* in this sense, either in Cicero or Caesar.
4. **homo.** This is generally supposed to refer to Nerva, who, when banished by Domitian, lived happily at Tarentum, until he was chosen Emperor, and received the title of '*felicissimus.*'
6. **interdum simul.** See 11. 12.

10. (viii. 9.) A complaint that the claims of friendship allow no leisure for mental cultivation.

3. **nihil agere,** 'to be free from public or private business.'
5. **tanti:** *sc.* sunt.
7. **praecipiunt:** *e.g.* Cic. *Lael.* 17, 'ego vos hortari tantum possum, ut amicitiam omnibus rebus humanis anteponatis.'

11. (i. 6.) Tacitus is recommended to take his writing materials with him when he goes out hunting.

Tacito, the famous historian.

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2. **et quidem**=et *eos* quidem: cf. Cic. *Phil.* ii. 17, 'duo milia iugerum . . . et quidem immunia.'
3. **inertia.** Sallust uses the same expression of his historical studies: 'tanto tamque utili labori meo nomen *inertiae* imponunt.'—*Jug.* iv.
4. **ad retia.** Cf. Hor. *Epod.* ii., 'trudit acres hinc et hinc multa cane Apros in obstantes plagas.'
7. **non est quod.** *Lat. Prim.* § 452.
8. **ut,** 'how.' *Quam* is more common. Cf. 70. 1, and Cic. *Att.* xiii. 40.
12. **lagunculam*,** 'flask.'

12. (ix. 10.) Another letter on the same subject as the last.

1. **praeceptis tuis.** Tacitus had apparently written to Pliny some time after the date of Letter 11, reminding him of his former practice, and bidding him resume it.

   There is a theory that this letter was written by Tacitus to Pliny in reply to the last, but the allusion (l. 9) to an opinion expressed in one of the works of Tacitus seems to prove that the explanation above is correct.
3. **convenire non possit,** 'there can be no agreement between.' *Lat. Prim.* § 295. *Potest* can only be used impersonally when the infinitive is passive (or virtually passive).
5. **aestate.** Cf. Mart. x. 62, 'aestate pueri si valent satis discunt.' **in via.** The Romans did not abandon their literary labours even while driving; cf. 135. 59.
9. **inter nemora et lucus.** The reference is to Tac. *de Orat.* ix. (*ad fin.*).
10. **unam alteram,** 'an oration or two.'
11. **inamoenum*,** 'unpleasant.'

13. (ix. 12.) A plea for indulgence to the natural extravagance of youth.

1. **quod emeret.** *Lat. Prim.* § 469.
2. **equos et canes.** Cf. Hor. *Ars Poet.* 161:

   'Imberbis iuvenis, tandem custode remoto,
   Gaudet equis canibusque . . . prodigus aeris.'

6. **nonne omnes.** Cf. Soph. *Antig.* 1023, τοῖς πᾶσι κοινὸν ἐστι τοὐξαμαρτάνειν.

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11. **et te fuisse.** Cf. Cato *in Distichis*: 'Fac tibi succurrant iuvenis quae feceris ipse.'

hoc quod es pater, 'your paternal rights,' which according to a well-known maxim of Roman law consisted 'in pietate non in atrocitate.'

14. (i. 15.) Pliny threatens in jest to bring an action against a faithless guest.

1. **promittis ad cenam**: sc. 'te venturum esse.' Cf. Cic. *Orat.* ii. 7, '. . . quod ad fratrem promiserat.'

3. **lactucae.** These were used to promote the appetite. Cf. Mart. xiii. 14:

'Claudere quae cenas lactuca solebat avorum
Dic mihi cur nostras inchoat illa dapes?'

cochleae. The best snails came from Africa. Cf. Sall. *Jug.* 93. They were kept in a *cochlearium* sheltered from the sun and fattened in jars on boiled must and flour. Martial (xiii. 53) speaks contemptuously of them:

'Cochleas tibi habe; perdere nolo famem.'

9. **Gaditanas,** 'dancing-girls from Gades' in Spain. Cf. Mart. i. 35.

8. **quae mea liberalitas.** *Lat. Prim.* § 454, note 3.

10. **invidisti,** 'you have grudged a pleasure.'

nescio an . . ., 'possibly,' in Cic. generally 'probably.'

14. **incautius,** 'more at ease.'

15. **potius excusaveris**: if you don't prefer my entertainments to any others—say so.

15. (iii. 12.) An invitation accepted on condition that the banquet shall not be prolonged.

1. **expedita,** 'unceremonious.'

2. **Socraticis sermonibus.** Cf. Hor. 3 *Od.* xxi.:

'Non ille, quamquam Socraticis madet
Sermonibus, te negliget horridus;
Narratur et prisci Catonis
Saepe mero caluisse virtus.'

4. **Catoni.** It is said that Cato, while on his way after a debauch to make a call in the early morning (according to the Roman fashion, cf. 135. 34), was stopped by a midnight

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party of young men who forced him to uncover his head and disclose his drunken condition.

5. **Caesar.** Caesar wrote an invective against Cato (*Anticato*) in reply to the *Cato Major* of Cicero.

ita . . . ut. Cf. 2. 9, note.

7. **putares.** *Lat. Prim.* § 355.

16. (ix. 21.) A kindly letter desiring Sabinianus to forgive a freedman who had offended him.

5. **deliquisse se sentit.** 'In these cases the rule is to pardon all offences where there is any sign of repentance or hope of amendment.'—Seneca's *Moralls* (L'Estrange).

10. **excusatius***, 'with the better excuse.'

16. **destricte***, 'positively.'

17. (ix. 24.) A second letter expressing gratification at the success of the first.

6. **igitur.** In the best prose *igitur* does not often begin a sentence.

8. **qui deprecetur.** *Lat. Prim.* § 452, *a.*

18. (v. 2.) A letter of thanks for a present.

1. **turdos.** Cf. Hor. 1 *Ep.* xv. 41, 'cum sit obeso nil melius turdo.'

2. **calculum ponere,** 'to cast up an account,' hence 'make a return.'

nec urbis copiis. Pliny's villa was seventeen miles from Rome; cf. 137. 4. Some editions have *ullis*, which is not improbably right, as there was no estate attached to Pliny's Laurentine villa from which he might get game.

5. **Diomedes.** Diomed exchanged his brazen arms for the golden arms of Glaucus: χρύσεα χαλκείων, ἑκατόμβοι' ἐννεαβοίων, *Il.* vi. 236.

19. (vii. 21.) Pliny assures Cornutus Flaccus that he is taking good care of his eyes.

1. **collega,** both as Praefect of the Treasury and Consul.

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1. **infirmitati oculorum.** Many Romans suffered from weak eyes; probably from constant exposure to the sun, since hats were only worn when travelling or in the theatre.
6. **cryptoporticus.** A covered arcade or gallery, closed at the sides.
7. **adopertis,** 'closed.' Not in Cicero or Caesar.
10. **custos . . .,** his wife?
11. **ut a te missam:** a favourite use of *ut* with Pliny. Cf. 42. 13.

20. (vii. 13.) A paradox.

2. **quod sentio enuntiem:** 'express my meaning'—a relative definition. Cf. Roby, § 1763. *Lat. Prim.* § 432.
3. **tam . . . quam,** 'so . . . as.'

21. (ix. 16.) Verses and vintages.

2. **cum scribas.** *Lat. Prim.* § 426.
3. **numerum,** 'the number' of the slain. Cf. Liv. xxxviii. 23. 6.
4. **vindemiae.** It was the custom to let the vintages annually to contractors; cf. 60.
5. **devehimus,** 'draw off.'
7. **defervisse,** 'to have ceased fermenting, settled' (more usual form, *deferbui*); the metaphors are taken from the process of wine-making.

22. (vii. 3.) Praesens is remonstrated with for his continued absence from Rome.

5. **minores.** In the country he would only meet his 'humbler' friends.
6. **regnabis:** cf. Hor. 1 *Ep.* x. 8:

> 'Vivo et *regno*, simul ista reliqui
> Quae vos ad caelum fertis rumore secundo.'

7. **dormies:** cf. 139. 2. Martial, *Ep.* ix. 68, gives one of the causes which made sleep difficult at Rome.
   calcei: these were as a rule only used with the toga—'togae propria tormenta,' Tertull. Cf. Suet. *Aug.* 78.
8. **feriata,** 'having a holiday.' Among the conditions of a happy life Martial reckons 'toga rara,' *Ep.* x. 47. Cf. 138, 202.
9. **te revisere.** The infinitive after *tempus est* is quite classical. Cf. Cic. *Tusc.* i. 41, 'tempus est iam hinc abire me.'

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23. (v. 19.) A request for the loan of a friend's house in the Riviera, for a freedman who was unwell.

1. **tuos habeas,** 'you treat your dependants.' Cf. Tac. *Annal.* i. 54.
   quo simplicius. *Lat. Prim.* § 453.
3. **πατὴρ δ' ὡς,** 'like a father he was kind,' Hom. *Od.* ii. 47. Cf. Sen. *Ep.* 47, 'dominum patrem familiae appellaverunt (maiores); servos familiares.'
9. **inscriptio**: a label round the neck of a slave for sale, stating his qualifications.
18. **aeque . . . quam**: post-Augustan for *aeque . . . ac.*
23. **nimis imperat,** 'demands too much of.' Cf. Verg. *Georg.* i. 49, 'imperat arvis.'
30. **si quid opus est.** *Lat. Prim.* § 243. When the *thing needed* is expressed by a neuter pronoun or adjective, it stands as subject to *opus est.*

24. (vi. 28.) Pliny remonstrates with Pontius on his excessive liberality.

1. **impedimento.** *Lat. Prim.* § 225.
5. **inprobe,** 'like a clown.'

25. (vi. 3.) A gift to his nurse.

2. **colendum.** *Lat. Prim.* § 384.
3. **erat** = *aestimabatur*: cf. Cic. *Off.* iii. 23, '. . . emat denario, quod sit mille denarium.'
   centum milium: about £800.
4. **reparabit,** 'it will regain.'
8. **mea.** *Lat. Prim.* § 291.

26. (ix. 17.) On the introduction of buffoons, etc., at banquets.

Genitori. Julius Genitor, a rhetorician, whom Pliny elsewhere calls 'vir emendatus et gravis, paullo etiam horridior et durior, ut in hac licentia temporum.'

2. **moriones,** 'jesters.'
3. **mensis inerrabant,** 'played their antic tricks round the tables.'
4. **nihil tale habeo**: they are not introduced at my entertainments.

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7. **non rationem sed stomachum,** 'my particular taste, not my judgment.'

12. **calceos poscunt.** When the guests had taken their places on the couch, the slave who had come with each removed his master's shoes, and kept them until wanted.

14. **prodigia,** 'monstrosities.' Livy dates the introduction of these and other foreign luxuries from the conquest of Antiochus by Scipio Africanus. Cf. Liv. xxxix. 6.

demus. The same sentiment is expressed by Lord Chesterfield in his Letters.

27. (ii. 6.) A mean host.

Avito. Pliny had two friends of this name, both of whom died young. Cf. 50 and 55.

1. **longum est.** *Lat. Prim.* § 345.
altius repetere, 'to tell the whole story.'

2. **ut cenarem.** *Lat. Prim.* § 415.

6. **lagunculis,** 'small flasks.'

8. **aliud sibi.** This practice was common. Cf. Mart. iii. 60, Juv. x. 70. Julius Caesar imprisoned a baker for a similar offence. Cf. Suet. *Caes.* 48.

10. **an probarem.** *An* belongs properly to the second part of an alternative question = *or*, but the first part is often to be supplied from the general idea. Pliny, however, uses *an* constantly instead of *num*.

13. **cenam.** It has been suggested that Pliny is alluding to the erroneous derivation of this word from *κοινός* ('common'), but more probably he means that his object is to show hospitality to his friends, and not to draw invidious distinctions between them.

18. **si gulae temperes.** The subjunctive is used because the subject is *impliedly indefinite* (you = one). Cf. Roby, §§ 1544, 1545.

21. **sumptibus.** To a wealthy and generous man like Pliny expense would be a secondary consideration.

22. **aliena contumelia,** 'by treating others with contempt.'

28. (vii. 23.) Advice to his wife's grandfather not to overtax his strength.

Fabato. L. Calpurnius Fabatus, a Roman knight, narrowly escaped death during the reign of Nero. He retired to Comum and spent his old age there.

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1. **fortem**, 'well, hearty'*.
2. **Tironi.** Calestrius Tiro, then travelling as proconsul to his government in Spain.

29. (ii. 2.) A bad correspondent.

2. **iniquus**, 'unreasonable.' Cf. Cic. *Fam.* vii. 15, 'Quam sint morosi, qui amant.'
3. **μικραίτιος**, 'complaining about trifles,' 'exacting.'
10. **nec di sinant.** A *jussive* subjunctive is sometimes used after *nec*. Cf. Cic. *Ac.* ii. 46.
ut infirmior: sc. *audiam*, 'I trust you are not too ill.'
ad villam. *Ad* is sometimes used where motion is *not* implied. Cf. Cic. *Verr.* vi. 2, 'Cum Thespiis ea, quae ad aedem Felicitatis sunt, signa tolleret.'

30. (vi. 12.) A good-tempered reply to Fabatus.

5. **praestabo**, 'assist.'
arena, 'on my own ground,' the court of the Centumviri, before which Pliny frequently appeared as an advocate.
6. **epistularum.** *Lat. Prim.* § 265.
9. **exegeris mecum**, 'you expostulate with me.'
11. **bonam causam**, 'a good case.'

31. (vi. 9.) An answer to a letter of recommendation.

1. **Nasonem.** Julius Naso was candidate for the quaestorship, and Pliny was himself canvassing for him vigorously.
2. **me ipsum**: sc. *commendasses.*

32. (vii. 28.) A man need not be chary of praising his friends.

5. **ut norint**, 'supposing they do know them better.' *Lat. Prim.* § 448.

33. (vii. 1.) A letter of advice to a sick man.

2. **noverim.** *Lat. Prim.* § 448, note 1.
3. **illi liceat**, 'lest the disease should have a bad effect.'
4. **admittit**, 'is my excuse for giving advice.'
12. **tandem remissus**, 'when the fit was somewhat abated.'
13. **potionem**, a cooling drink.

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13. **utque tangeret**, 'feel my pulse,' to see if there was any fever remaining which would be increased by the draught.
dixi: this use of *dico* is colloquial.

16. **medicos.** The physicians at Rome were generally men of servile condition, and even at Athens, where no slave was allowed to practise, physicians often called in the help of orators, to persuade their patients to attend to their directions. Aelian, however, mentions a law existing among the Epizephyrian Locrians, which directed that if any man drank wine against the orders of his doctor, he was to be put to death for disobedience, even if he recovered.

34. (viii. 22.) Be severe to your own faults, lenient to those of others.

3. **quos imitantur**: 'who so fierce against calumny as the evil speaker?' Seneca's *Moralls.* Cf. also Val. Max. viii. 6 and Juv. ii. 19.

4. **lenitas**: cf. Hor. 1 *Sat.* iii. 43:

> 'At pater ut gnati, sic nos debemus, amici
> Siquod sit vitium, non fastidire . . .'

12. **Thrasea**, the Stoic: cf. 77. 40.

18. **exempli.** The use of the genitive with *refert* is rare (*Lat. Prim.* § 292), though common with *interest.* Cf. 125. 7.

35. (ix. 31.) Pliny congratulates a friend on his versatility in treating a single theme.

4. **percopiosus fuisti**, 'your account has been very full.'

36. (i. 13.) A lament over the degeneracy of the age, and the reluctance shown to attend Recitations.

2. **mense Aprili**: earlier than usual; the ordinary time was July or August, during the Legal Vacation. Cf. Juv. iii. 2, 'Augusto recitantes mense poetas.'

3. **quod vigent.** *Lat. Prim.* § 416, note.

5. **in stationibus**, covered seats near the Forum.

6. **fabulis**, 'in gossip.'

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14. **Nonianum.** Servilius Nonianus was a famous pleader and historian. Quintilian thought his style too rhetorical.
Claudius himself was an author: 'et assidue recitavit per lectorem,' Suet. *Claud.* xli.

15. **subitum.** An adjective is often used (as secondary predicate) where in English we use an adverb: cf. Cic. *Att.* xi. 24, 'Philotimus non modo nullus venit sed. . .'

16. **quisque.** *Lat. Prim.* § 325.

18. **laudandi.** Horace and Juvenal are far less charitable: cf. Hor. 1 *Sat.* iv. 70-80, Juv. i. 1.

18. **quia non perdiderit,** 'because (as I say) he has not lost it.' *Lat. Prim.* § 469.

23. **ut non=quin.** Cf. Cic. *de Fin.* viii. 27, 'fieri nullo modo potest ut non dicas.'

28. **reposcatur**: cf. 27. 18, note.

37. (vi. 15.) An anecdote of Priscus Javolenus.

2. **excepit,** 'met me on my arrival.'

4. **municeps,** 'a fellow-citizen.' Propertius was an Umbrian, and (according to some accounts) belonged to the town of Mevania.

6. '**Prisce, iubes.**' These were the two first words of the poem. Priscus in a fit of abstraction thought he was being spoken to.

9. **dubiae sanitatis.** Priscus was an eminent lawyer, and afterwards one of the council of Antoninus Pius, but apparently he was eccentric or absent-minded.

11. **ius respondet.** The opinions of eminent counsel on cases submitted to them were considered almost final at Rome. Augustus limited the right of giving binding opinions to a small number of leading jurisconsults.

38. (ix. 34.) A letter asking for advice how an author should behave during the recitation of his own poetry.

Tranquillo: C. Suetonius Tranquillus, the author of the Lives of the first twelve Caesars.

8. **sedeam.** *Lat. Prim.* § 358.

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8. **ut quidam.** It seems probable that the whole of this letter is ironical, and intended to ridicule those who followed this practice.

10. **saltare.** Both Greeks and Romans attached great importance to *gesticulation* in reading and speaking and delivery. Cf. Cic. *Brut.* 38, 'Demosthenem ferunt ei, qui quaesivisset quid primum esset in dicendo, actionem; quid secundum, idem et idem tertium respondisse.'

39. (i. 21.) A letter about some slaves bought on the recommendation of a friend.

2. **non quia multum,** etc., 'not because you have much taste; I don't want you to flatter yourself.'

5. **frugi.** Hor. 2 *Sat.* vii. 3; 1 *Ep.* xvi. 49.

6. **auribus iudicatur.** The slaves were good-looking enough, but it might have been better to have had 'a character' with them.

40. (ix. 20.) Country life at the vintage-season.

2. **de libellis**: cf. 35. 3.

4. **maxime,** 'particularly.'

7. **torculum,** 'the press.'

8. **urbanis.** The villa was divided into (*pars*) *urbana*, occupied by the master and his family, and (*pars*) *rustica*, the kitchen, outhouses, etc. On special occasions the *servi urbani* would be pressed into the field-work with the *servi rustici*.

41. (i. 24.) Pliny requests a friend to interest himself in the purchase of an estate which Tranquillus Suetonius wished to acquire.

1. **contubernalis**: a term applied to persons connected by ties of intimate friendship, and living under one roof. Cf. 123. 3, note.

7. **stomachum sollicitant,** 'tempt the inclination.'

8. **modus**: cf. Hor. 2 *Sat.* vi. 1:

> 'Hoc erat in votis: modus agri non ita magnus';

also Verg. *Georg.* ii. 412.

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9. **mediocritas villae.** Pliny is rather fond of *abstract* words; cf. xliv. 2 and *passim*.

42. (i. 19.) An offer of money to raise the social position of a friend.

1. **municeps**: at Comum.
4. **suscipere**: *sc.* augendum.
6. **centum millium**: *sc.* nummûm, nearly £800; this was the property qualification required of a 'decurio.'
9. **equestres facultates.** Wealth, under the empire, was the sole passport to rank; cf. Hor. 1 *Ep.* i. 58:

'Si quadringentis sex septem millia desunt
Plebs eris.'

13. **ut a me data**: cf. 19. 11, note.

43. (vi. 32.) Pliny offers to give a dowry to the daughter of Quintilian.

Quintiliano. This was Pliny's old master, the famous rhetorician. He married the daughter of Tutilius, a writer on Rhetoric.

4. **officiorum.** Nonius Celer had held the consulship, and was afterwards proconsul in Spain. His position, therefore, demanded some display.
8. **modicum facultatibus.** Juvenal (*Sat.* vii. 186 *seq.*) calls him wealthy, which has led some to suppose that another Quintilian is here referred to; but though rich compared with other rhetoricians, he may well have seemed poor to a wealthy man like Pliny.
11. **collaturus.** The fut. part. often serves in condit. sentences as a substitute for the plup. indic.: cf. 50. 15.

44. (iv. 6.) A remedy for agricultural distress.

1. **Tusci**: 'the produce of my Tuscan estate.'
3. **in reditu**: 'produces any return.'

45. (vi. 25.) Mysterious disappearance of a Roman knight.

8. **ordinem impetraveram**, 'I had procured him a company' as centurion.

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11. **a suis.** This was a real danger; see next letter.
13. **ut**=*utinam*: cf. Ter. *Heaut.* iv. 6. 6, 'ut te omnes di deaeque perduint.'

46. (iii. 14.) The murder of Largius Macedo by his slaves.

1. **epistula dignam.** So tragical a circumstance deserves to be the subject of something more considerable than a letter.
2. **a servis.** The use of a preposition to express agency is not confined to *passive* verbs; cf. Cic. *Off.* ii. 7, 'interiit a paucis.'
3. **servisse patrem.** 'There was thus a circulation of men from all the universe. Rome received them slaves, and sent them back Romans.'—Montesquieu.
4. **nimium,** *v.l.* minimum.
8. **fervens pavimentum.** The caldarium, or heated chamber, was built on arches over the furnace.
   an viveret: cf. 27. 10, note.
10. **fidem implevit,** 'completed their belief.'
18. **vivus vindicatus**: he saw his murderers put to death before he died himself.
29. **ut transitum daret,** 'to make room for his master.'
30. **ipsum percussit,** *i.e.* by mistake?

47. (i. 18.) Pliny desires Suetonius not to let a dream discourage him about the termination of a law-suit.

4. **καὶ γάρ τ' ὄναρ,** 'Since visions too from Jove proceed,' *Il.* i. 63.
5. **eventura**: cf. Cic. *de Div.* i. 29, 'Quae quidem multo plura evenirent, si ad quietem integri iremus.'
   contraria. The theory that dreams may be interpreted by their contraries is very wide-spread, and found even among Zulus and Maories. Tylor, *Prim. Cult.* i. 122.
8. **cum mihi visa est.** *Lat. Prim.* § 434.
   socrus mea. Pompeia Celerina.
9. **adolescentulus.** Pliny began to speak in his nineteenth year.
10. **quadruplici iudicio.** The Centumviri were a body (*iudicium*) of judges of the greatest dignity and importance, who tried civil, and probably criminal, cases. They were divided into four parts, each of which sometimes sat by itself.

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11. **Caesaris**: Domitian.
13. **λογισάμενος**, 'remembering the line:

'The best of omens is our country's cause.'—*Il.* xii. 243.

15. **patria fides videbatur**: I must fight on behalf of my 'honour as if it were my 'country.'
17. **ianuam famae.** A somewhat similar phrase occurs, Ter. *Heaut.* iii. 1. 12, 'Quantam fenestram ad nequitiam patefeceris.'
20. **quod dubitas**: cf. Cic. *Off.* i. 9. 8.
21. **causam.** Notice the play on the double meaning of this word.
24. **aegre quidem, sed**: cf. 19. 4.

48. (vi. 23.) Pliny, who had been asked to plead the cause of Triarius, stipulates for leave to choose Ruso as his junior.

2. **famosam**, 'honourable': in earlier Latin 'infamous.'
3. **non gratis.** Roman feeling resented the payment of fees as savouring too much of a tribute from the plebs to the patricians, but the law sanctioned a present after the suit was over. Cf. 73. 9.
6. **solitum hoc mihi**, 'this is my regular practice.'
9. **natales**, 'family'*.
10. **mei caritatem.** *Lat. Prim.* § 264.
18. **commendator***, 'introducer.'

49. (vi. 24.) How much the fame of actions depends on the station of those that perform them.

4. **cum ostendit**: cf. 47. 8, note.
13. **mihi auditum est**: a rare use of the dative with a *passive* verb. *Lat. Prim.* § 222. Cf. Cic. *de Off.* iii. 8. 38, 'Honesta enim bonis viris, non occulta quaeruntur.'
15. **Arriae**: cf. 77. 4.

50. (v. 9.) The death of Julius Avitus.

4. **recitaturum.** Saturninus was an accomplished writer; elsewhere Pliny says of him, 'facit versus, quales Catullus aut Calvus.'

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4. **statim, ut** : cf. Cic. *Att.* 2. 12, 'litteras scripsi hora decima, statim ut tuas legeram.' *Lat. Prim.* p. 183*.
15. **consecuturus** : cf. 43. 11, note.
19. **remittas** : cf. 27. 18, note.

51. (iii. 19.) Pliny consults Calvisius Rufus about the purchase of an estate.

1. **rei familiaris,** 'an affair which concerns my finances.'
5. **voluptuosum***, 'agreeable.'
8. **tantum tueri,** 'to keep in common repair.'
13. **tempestatibus** : cf. 44. 1.
14. **subdere,** 'expose.'
incerta fortunae : cf. Liv. xxx. 15. 4, 'sub cuius custodia regio more ad incerta fortunae venenum erat.'
17. **inter sua** : *v.l.* intersita.
felicitas, 'fertility'*.
21. **inbecillis,** 'poor,' 'unsubstantial.'
fatigatur : cf. Ov. *Met.* v. 485, 'lolium tribulique fatigant Triticeas messes.
22. **vendidit pignora.** The original proprietor cleared off *arrears* (*reliqua*) by selling the property of his tenants, which he held as security (*pignora*) for payment of rent, and it would require a considerable outlay to set them on their legs again.
26. **vinctos.** The elder Pliny, *N. H.* xviii. c. 3, censures this method of cultivation by slaves in chains : 'At nunc agros vincti pedes, damnatae manus, inscripti vultus exercent.' An underground gaol (*ergastulum*) was generally provided for their reception.'
27. **sestercio tricies** : about £24,000. *Lat. Prim.* p. 218 *d.*
28. **non quia . . . fuerint.** *Lat. Prim.* § 426, note 2.
35. **non moveat.** This use of *non* for *ne* is denounced by Quintilian as ungrammatical.
34. **a socru** : cf. 47. 8.

52. (ix. 37.) Pliny regrets that the necessity of re-letting his farms prevents him from attending the inauguration of the consulship of a friend.

4. **Kalendis.** The consuls came into office Jan. 1.
6. **plures annos ordinatura,** 'which will affect a term of years.'

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8. **lustro.** Five years was the ordinary term of an agricultural lease.
12. **non sibi parcere**: they are sparing their landlord's property, not their own.
14. **non nummo sed partibus.** Rent was paid either in money or by making over to the landlord a fixed proportion of the produce.
21. **delicata**: cf. 7. 4.

53. (iii. 21.) On the death of the poet Martial.

2. **acutus.** Martial first restricted the epigram to a short poem in which everything converged to one *sharp* point.
4. **secedentem.** In his old age Martial retired to his native place Bilbilis, in Spain.
6. **fuit moris**: cf. Cic. *Verr.* 3. 26, 'negavit moris esse Graecorum ut in convivio virorum accumberent mulieres.'
7. **honoribus.** Thus Ennius obtained the Roman citizenship through the son of M. Fulvius Nobilior. Cf. also Cic. *pro Archia*, iv.
10. **laudari.** So the elder Pliny says (*N. H.* xxxv. 2) the representation of the body in sculpture is neglected because there are no minds left to represent.
14. **alloquitur**: *sc.* ipse. The whole poem is to be found, Mart. *Ep.* x. 19.
16. **non tuo**, 'unfavourable.'
18. **tetricae Minervae**: *i.e.* legal study.
21. **Arpinis chartis.** The Orations of Cicero, who was born at Arpinum.
24. **madent**: with perfumes. Cf. Hor. 2 *Od.* iii. 13.
25. **Catones**: cf. 15. 2, 4, notes.
26. **dimisi**: cf. Cic. *Att.* xii. 18, 'discedentem te non sine magno dolore dimittam.'

54. (iii. 6.) A description of a Corinthian statue which he had lately purchased.

3. **expressum**, 'lifelike.'
4. **in hac . . . sapio.** Cicero speaks in the same strain of his own acquaintance with art; cf. *Verr.* iv. 2.
8. **spirantis**: cf. Verg. *Aen.* vi. 847, 'excudent alii spirantia mollius aera.'

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10. **pendent—iacent—recessit.** These verbs all imply looseness and want of vigour in the muscles.
12. **verus.** The actual colour of the metal; bronzes were sometimes painted or covered with gilt.
12. **antiquum,** 'old-fashioned.'
26. **officii.** Pliny was at this time curator viae Aemiliae.

55. (viii. 23.) On the death of Junius Avitus.

1. **avocamenta*,** 'distractions.'
2. **Iunii Aviti.** Not the same as the Julius Avitus mentioned before (50), though their fate was very similar.
3. **in domo mea:** a rare phrase (not found in Cicero), instead of 'domi meae.'
6. **formatore*,** 'former.'
8. **minor:** cf. Hor. *Od.* iii. 6. 6, 'Dis te minorem quod geris imperas.'
9. **neminem verentur.** Horace speaks of the 'beardless boy' as 'monitoribus asper.' Cf. *Ars Poet.* 163.
15. **ut melior factus:** cf. Ter. *Eun.* iv. 7. 21, 'numquam accedo ad te quin abs te abeam doctior.'
18. **cepit,** 'attracted.'
23. **discursu,** 'energy' in canvassing.
26. **preces:** his 'canvas' was now useless.
27. **clavus . . . sumptus.** *Lat. Prim.* § 393.
37. **pariter . . . pariter:** this repetition of *pariter* is not very common; cf. Ovid. *Met.* viii. 324.
39. **eram.** *Lat. Prim.* § 343.

56. (v. 16.) A charming description of a little girl who had recently died.

2. **defuncta,** *sc.* vita: a late use.
9. **paedagogos.** Roman girls were not confined at home according to the Greek custom, and therefore required paedagogi.
11. **ut parce ludebat.** The serious-minded Romans valued 'gravitas' even in a child's games.
21. **destinata.** Girls were constantly 'betrothed' at ten and married at twelve years old.
27. **tus et unguenta.** Corpses used to be perfumed by slaves called Pollinctores.

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31. **pietatis est totus**: a Graecism, ὅλος τοῦ ἔρωτος. Forgetful of his philosophy, he has surrendered himself entirely to his affection.
37. **castigatorium***, 'in a reproving spirit.'
39. **medii temporis**: cf. Cic. *Tusc.* iii. 22, 'quae (dies) procedens ita mitigat, ut iisdem malis manentibus non modo leniatur aegritudo, sed in plerisque tollatur.'
40. **manus reformidat**. 'But there 's no applying of consolation to Fresh and Bleeding Sorrows; the very Discourse irritates the Grief and Inflames it.'—Seneca's *Moralls*.

57. (vi. 34.) Pliny congratulates Maximus on some gladiatorial shows which he had given in memory of his wife.

2. **nostris**. Pliny's uncle was born at Verona.
olim: cf. 8. 1, note.
5. **quod maxime funeri**. Gladiatorial shows were originally human sacrifices to appease the manes of the dead. They are said to have been of Etruscan origin, and were introduced into Rome B.C. 264.
7. **durum videretur**. To us the 'hard-heartedness' seems to consist in *giving*, not in refusing, but the cruelty of these shows seems hardly to have struck even the most amiable of the Romans. Seneca (*Ep.* vii.), Plutarch (*De Esu Carnium*), and Marcus Aurelius are remarkable exceptions. Cf. also 59. 12.

The whole subject is admirably discussed by Lecky, *Hist. Eur. Mor.* vol. i. pp. 271-291.

58. (ix. 6.) On the popularity of the Circensian games.

1. **omne hoc**. 'This day I have entirely to myself without any knocking at the door . . . for all the impertinents were either at the theatre or at the horse-match.'—Sen. *Ep.* v.
4. **teneor**. Cicero also thought these exhibitions unworthy of the attention of a serious man. Cf. *De Off.* ii. 16 and *Fam.* vii. 1. Julius Caesar read letters during their representation. Cf. Suet. *Aug.* xlv.
7. **insistentes**. The Roman driver stood up in his chariot.
8. **si traherentur**, 'if they were attracted.'

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9. **favent panno.** The number of chariots which started for each race was originally four. The drivers were divided into four companies (*factiones*), each wearing a distinctive colour (*pannus*), to represent the four seasons of the year. These were green, red, azure, and white. The number was afterwards increased to six.

11. **si transferatur transibit:** a Greek form of conditional sentence, found in poetry and late prose; cf. Hor. 3 *Od.* iii. 7, 'si fractus illabatur orbis pavidum ferient ruinae.' Roby, § 1574 *b*.

15. **mitto,** 'I say nothing of' its influence among. Party spirit ran so high that on one occasion an enthusiastic partisan threw himself on the pile on which the body of a favourite coachman was being consumed. Plin. *N. H.* vii. 34.

20. **otiosissimis occupationibus:** an oxymoron; cf. *Lat. Prim.* p. 220.

59. (iv. 22.) Two anecdotes of Junius Mauricus.

1. **principis:** Trajan.
cognitioni: a case tried before a special commission of distinguished men.

4. **duumviratu.** The duumviri were the chief magistrates of a colonia or municipium. They held office for one year.

5. **tollendum . . . curavit.** *Lat. Prim.* § 384.
ex auctoritate publica. He had, it was alleged, transcended his powers.

10. **Mauricus:** cf. 6, note. He had just returned from exile.

15. **Veiento:** one of the worst of Domitian's favourites.

20. **quo saepius.** Catullus Messalinus, an infamous 'delator,' became the most useful tool of Domitian's cruelty, as owing to his blindness he was a stranger to shame or compassion.

23. **super cenam:** cf. 135. 45. Cicero uses *inter*; cf. *Q. F.* iii. 1. 6.

25. **nobiscum cenaret:** a sarcasm directed against the mildness of Nerva's disposition, which led him to tolerate men like Veiento.

60. (viii. 2.) An account of Pliny's liberality towards some factors who had offered too large a sum for his vintages.

5. **erat expeditum.** *Lat. Prim.* § 440 *d*.

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agitare iustitiam : cf. Sall. *Jug.* 14, 'laeti pacem agitabamus.'

8. **si paria peccata.** It was a doctrine of the Stoics, that if the boundary-line between right and wrong was once passed the fault was committed : 'quam longe progrediare, quum semel transieris, ad augendam culpam nihil pertinet.' — Cic. *Parad.* iii.

14. **decem milia** : *sc.* nummûm ; about £80.

22. **quos non aequasset.** It was not just to be equally liberal to those who had not paid with equal promptitude.

28. **magno.** *Lat. Prim.* § 245, note.

33. **ἐν δὲ λῇ . . .** : 'The wretch and hero find their prize the same.' *Il.* ix. 319.

61. (vi. 11.) Pliny expresses his delight at finding himself chosen as a model by two rising orators.

1. **praefecto urbis.** In the latter days of the Republic a praefectus urbis was appointed every year to celebrate the Feriae Latinae during the absence of the consuls. Augustus, however, converted it into a permanent office, with full powers to maintain peace and order in the city.

2. **ex diverso,** 'on opposite sides.'

6. **constantia salva,** 'complete self-possession.'
os Latinum : 'a pure diction.'

12. **candidissimo calculo** : a proverbial expression among the Romans; cf. Hor. 1 *Od.* xxxvi. 10. The elder Pliny mentions the custom as actually existing among the Thracians.

62. (viii. 16). Pliny laments the death of some of his slaves, but is consoled by the thought that he has always treated them well.

1. **infirmitates,** 'sickness'*.

3. **facilitas manumittendi.** A well-conducted and industrious slave might expect to obtain his liberty in about six years. Cf. Cic. *Phil.* viii. 11.

6. **quasi testamenta facere.** Slaves who acted as agents or conducted any business for their masters were commonly allowed to retain a portion of their gains (*peculium*), but after the death of a slave his property generally reverted to his master ; no slave could *legally* make a will.

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9. **nam servis res publica.** Cf. Sen. *Ep.* 46, 'domum pusillam rempublicam esse iudicaverunt.' The condition of a slave was very variable in Italy. In the towns, besides those who held menial positions, a higher class were employed as physicians, artists, and secretaries. In the country, the few slaves who assisted the farmer in the early days of the Republic were infinitely better treated than the masses who tilled the ground in chains in after history. Of course the treatment of slaves varied according to the character of their masters. Cf. 23 and 46.

10. **quanquam adquiescam.** *Lat. Prim.* § 448, note 1.

13. **sapientes.** Cf. Cic. *Lael.* iii. 1, 'ego si Scipionis desiderio me moveri negem, quam recte id faciam, viderint sapientes, sed certe mentiar.' The Stoics taught that clemency was a virtue, but that *pity*, and all other mental affections, were vicious. Cato was conspicuous for inhumanity towards his slaves.

20. **dolendi voluptas:**

'. . . est quaedam flere voluptas
Expletur lacrymis egeriturque dolos.'
Ovid. *Trist.* iv. 3. 37.

63. (vii. 26.) The chastening effects of sickness.

1. **optimos dum infirmi.** Here, as elsewhere, Pliny rises above the doctrine of the Stoics, who professed insensibility to suffering, and knew nothing of the virtue that belongs to weakness. Lecky (*Hist. Eur. Mor.* p. 242) calls this a remarkable passage, which is probably without parallel in Pagan literature.

5. **ut relicturus.** The sentiment is somewhat like that of Hor. 2 *Od.* iii.

7. **sermonibus.** The use of the dative after *attendit* is post-Augustan.

8. **balinea et fontes.** Cf. *Henry V.* ii. 3: 'a-babbled of green fields.'

10. **pinguem vitam:** λιπαρὸν γῆρας, Hom. *Od.* xi. 136.

64. (ix. 23.) Delight at finding himself recognised as a literary man and compared with Tacitus.

10. **ex studiis,** 'from my writings.' Tacitus had not yet written his Histories or Annals.

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13. **litteris redduntur**, 'are considered the property of literature.'
16. **recumbebat mecum**, 'was dining at the same table.'
17. **super eum**, *i.e.* on his right.
22. **οὗτός ἐστι**, 'this is Demosthenes.' The story is that she recognised him by the purity of his speech. Cf. Cic. *Tusc.* v. 36.
27. **nec . . . et**: cf. 4. 9, note.

65. (ix. 30.) On True Liberality.

2. **quod sit**. *Lat. Prim.* § 469.
5. **amicis pauperibus**. The same sentiments are expressed by Cicero: 'ut quisque maxime opis indigeat, ita ei potissimum opitulari. Quod contra fit a plerisque . . .'—*De Offic.* i. 49.
7. **hamatis**. Cf. Mart. vi. 63:

'Munera magna tamen misit sed misit in hamo.'

Cf. also iv. 66, and Hor. 2 *Sat.* v. 25.

9. **auferunt illi**. Cf. Cic. *De Offic.* i. 43: 'sunt autem multi qui eripiunt aliis quod aliis largiantur.'
10. **suo esse contentum**. Cf. Marc. Aur. v. 27: *Συζῇ δὲ θεοῖς ὁ συνεχῶς δεικνὺς αὐτοῖς τὴν ἑαυτοῦ ψυχὴν ἀρεσκομένην τοῖς ἀπονεμομένοις.*
12. **orbe quodam . . .** 'to embrace in a kind of circle of good fellowship.' There is probably a play on the other meaning of *ambire* 'to court,' 'solicit.'
16. **possideri**, 'to be the slaves rather than the masters.' Cf. Sall. *Jug.* ii. 3.

66. (iv. 10.) A case in which Law and Equity are at variance.

6. **quia servo**: cf. 62. 6, note.
7. **dederit**: *sc.* Sabina.
12. **pro iure est**. In another letter (v. 7) Pliny writes: 'mihi autem defuncti voluntas (vereor quam in partem iuriscon-sulti quod sum dicturus accipiant) antiquior iure est.'
15. **caverit**: *sc.* Sabina.

67. (vi. 10.) On the monument of Verginius.

2. **Rufi Verginii**. Verginius, the governor of Upper Germany at the time of the revolt of Julius Vindex, refused the empire

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twice when offered him by his soldiers. He was Pliny's guardian.

5. **nidulum**: cf. Hor. 1 *Ep.* x. 6, 'Tu nidum servas.'

10. **post decimum annum**. He died A.D. 97. This neglect was too common; cf. the indignant lines of Martial:

'Marmoreo Licinus tumulo iacet at Cato parvo,
Pompeius nullo—credimus esse Deos?'

68. (ii. 20.) Anecdotes of Regulus as Legacy-Hunter.

1. **Assem para.** Pliny compares himself to one of the Improvisatori (circulatores) who made a living by telling stories in public.

auream, splendid*.

3. **Verania Pisonis**: *sc.* uxor. Piso Licinianus was adopted by the Emperor Galba as his successor, but was almost immediately slain by the Praetorians. His wife purchased the head of her dead husband from the assassins and buried it. Cf. Tac. *Hist.* i. 47.

5. **Regulus**: a conspicuous 'delator' who amassed great wealth under Nero and Domitian.

impudentiam. *Lat. Prim.* § 209, note.

7. **esto**, 'granted.'

12. **climactericum**, 'critical.' According to the Chaldaean astrologers, these periods of danger occurred every seventh year. Cf. Aul. Gell. iii. 10. 9. The belief that the whole destiny of man was governed by the star which presided over his nativity was rapidly gaining ground. Cf. Plin. *H. N.* ii. 5.

18. **per salutem filii.** Regulus had vowed by the life of his son that she would recover.

24. **qui speraret.** *Lat. Prim.* § 454.

25. **hortari, rogare.** *Lat. Prim.* § 372.

32. **scholastica lege**, 'after the rule of the rhetoricians.'

37. **quas erat induta.** *Lat. Prim.* § 210. The material which Roman ladies wore was often very costly, the vestes Byssinae being valued at £50 per pound weight.

41. **ἀλλὰ τί**, 'but why do I exert myself,'—waste my indignation.

46. **cum consuleret**, 'when consulting the auspices.'

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46. **sescenties.** *Lat. Prim.* p. 214, *d.*

50. **falsi,** 'tampering with wills' by persuading the testator to alienate his property from the legitimate heirs and to leave it to him.

69. (iv. 2.) Regulus as the Bereaved Father.

4. **emancipavit.** No man could hold property while in the 'potestas' of his father, therefore to secure the inheritance for his son Regulus was obliged to set him free, which was probably his mother's object in leaving the property to him.

5. **mancipatum.** He obtained such an influence over him by improper indulgences that people spoke of the boy jestingly as 'mancipatum,' not 'emancipatum.' The father's design was to become his son's heir.

9. **iunctos et solutos,** 'for driving and riding.'

11. **trucidavit:** in imitation of the Heroic custom of slaying animals at the grave of a chieftain. Cf. Hom. *Il.* xxiii. 166, Verg. *Aen.* xi. 197.

18. **statuis suis,** 'statues of himself.'

20. **insaluberrimo* tempore:** at a most unhealthy season to visit the neighbourhood of Rome 'to make kind inquiries.'

70. (iv. 7.) Another anecdote of Regulus.

7. **auditorio,** 'audience*.'

10. **scripsit publice,** 'he wrote a formal letter to the authorities.'

13. **intentio,** 'persistency.'

16. **ἀμαθία μὲν,** 'ignorance brings courage, reflection hesitation.' Thuc. ii. 40.

18. **os confusum,** 'an unintelligible pronunciation.'

22. **Herennius Senecio:** a native of Baetica, in Spain, put to death by Domitian.

Catonis illud. Cato defined an orator as 'vir bonus, dicendi peritus.' Cf. Quint. xii. 1. 1.

29. **circulator:** cf. 68. 1.

30. **Demosthenes.** Demosthenes accused his rival Aeschines of announcing a public calamity 'with uplifted voice, exulting and bawling out' (*De Cor.* xc.).

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71. (iii. 20.) Pliny remarks on the benefit which had resulted from the recent introduction of secret voting into the senate, but expresses himself doubtful about the future.

2. **lex tabellaria.** Voting by ballot was introduced into the public assembly (Lex Gabinia) B.C. 139. Tiberius transferred the Comitia from the public assembly to the senate, where the voting was always open until the occasion of which P. speaks.

7. **concionum.** These were not regular assemblies, but 'public meetings,' in which freedmen, slaves, and foreigners took part as well as citizens.

21. **preces** : cf. 55. 26.

22. **natales.** It was always the object of the aristocracy to keep the public offices to themselves, and prevent the entrance of any *novus homo.*

26. **decucurrerunt.** The action of the senators is attributed, by a well-known figure, to 'the proceedings' which caused it.

34. **reciperatoriis iudiciis.** When a Roman citizen was engaged in a suit with a foreigner the damages were settled by a special court called *reciperatores.* The proceedings in this court were so speedy that a custom grew up of submitting similar cases between Roman citizens to *reciperatores* named *offhand* by the magistrate.

43. **pro utilitate communi.** This is not mere flattery; even Tacitus says of Nerva (who was at this time Emperor) 'res olim dissociabiles miscuerit, principatum et libertatem.' *Agric.* iii.

45. **salubri temperamento,** 'by a generous dispensation.'

72. (iv. 25.) Pliny's apprehensions with regard to the future success of secret voting justified by the event.

7. **comprecatus* est,** 'invoked the wrath of the prince'—a formula which in a less degenerate age was addressed to the gods.

16. **ἀλλὰ ταῦτα,** 'but these things will be a care to him that is above us': *sc.* Trajan, who had now succeeded Nerva.

17. **multum laboris.** The office of Emperor was no sinecure, as is abundantly proved by Pliny's own letters to Trajan.

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73. (v. 21.) Advocates' Fees?

1. **basilicam Iulii**: where the court of the centumviri held their sittings: not far from the Forum.
2. **comperendinatione.** Civil procedure at Rome was divided into two parts, before the magistratus (*de iure*), and before the iudices (*in iudicio*). In the court of the 'centumviri' the plaintiff opened his case before the 'decemviri,' by whom it was transferred to the 'iudices' (here a definite body or 'collegium'), who continued the hearing after an adjournment (*comperendinatio*).
4. **praetore.** One of the praetors presided in the iudicia centumviralia; cf. l. 17.
7. **qui legibus quaerit,** 'who investigates according to statute'—paying no attention to counsel (Forcellinus).
8. **edictum.** It was the custom for the praetor on entering office to publish an edict stating the principles on which he meant to administer the law during his year of office. This right (*ius edicendi*) belonged both to the Praetor Urbanus and the Praetor Peregrinus.
9. **senatus consulto.** The old law (Lex Cincia), which forbade an advocate to accept a *fee*, was confirmed by a *senatus consultum* in the time of Augustus, but had apparently fallen into disuse. Nepos expressed his intention of reviving it, though with modifications.
21. **curva corrigeret,** 'to make crooked straight': cf. Sen. *Apocol.* l. 3. The Italians have a proverb, 'dirizzare il becco agli sparvieri' (to attempt impossibilities).
25. **rem pulcerrimam.** Advocacy was originally looked upon as part of the protection afforded by the patron to his client, which it was base to exchange for money.
28. **usu receptum**: cf. Cic. *pro Rab.* i. 1, 'hoc plerumque facimus ut consilia eventu ponderemus.'

74. (iv. 13.) On the advantages of Day Schools.

7. **praecursoria***, 'anticipatory.'
11. **Mediolani.** The schools of Milan have always been famous; Vergil studied oratory there.
20. **quantulum est.** *Lat. Prim.* § 345.
21. **habitationes**: boarding-houses.

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27. **ambitu,** 'jobbery.'
42. **finitimis oppidis**: cf. 49. 13, note.
45. **a fonte**: I thought I had better tell you the story from the beginning.
54. **illuc,** 'to Comum.'
hinc nihil aliud certum, 'no other security of success from here.'

75. (i. 12.) The self-inflicted death of Corellius Rufus.

1. **si iactura dicenda est,** 'if the word *loss* is strong enough.'
2. **et quidem sponte.** The ancient view of suicide differed totally from our own. Although some few held the Platonic doctrine that man is a 'soldier of God, occupying a post which it is criminal to abandon,' philosophers generally of whatever school held that death is 'the last physician of disease, and suicide the legitimate relief of intolerable suffering.' The 'wise man' of Epicurus 'Non dubitat, si ita melius sit, migrare de vita' (Cic. *de Fin.* i. 19). 'Why,' says Seneca, 'should a man complain of Bondage, that, wheresoever he looks, has his way open to Liberty? That Precipice, that Sea, that River, that Well, there 's Freedom in the bottom of it.'
5. **fatalis**: *v.l.* facilis.
17. **ipsum**: an unusual accusative for *de ipso*. Some editions insert *praedicantem*; cf. 56. 25.
20. **quoad viridis aetas,** 'while he had health and strength to struggle against it.'
26. **habebat hoc moris**: cf. 53. 6, note.
27. **quoties intrasset**: cf. *Lat. Prim.* § 436.
29. **circumtulit**: to see if there was any listener present.
30. **isti latrono**: Domitian.
31. **dedisses.** *Lat. Prim.* § 441, note 1.
36. **constantia,** 'by an effort of heroism.'
45. **κέκρικα,** 'I have resolved'; *v.l.* κέκμηκα.

76. (i. 22.) The illness of Titus Aristo.

1. **attonitus,** 'stupefied' by grief.
7. **rerum,** 'history.'
10. **aliquid abditum,** 'some abstruse point.'

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12. **quam pressa . . .**, 'how humble yet how graceful is his diffidence' (Melmoth). Probably, however, the reference is rather to the *scrupulous accuracy* which made him *cautious*.
14. **diversitate rationum.** He liked to see both sides of a question and thresh out the arguments for and against before he gave his decision.
23. **habitu corporis**: *i.e.* by long hair, unshorn beard, and the other marks of the professed philosopher; whence the sarcasm of Herodes Atticus, 'video barbam et pallium, philosophum non video.'
31. **differat**, 'resists,' lit. 'puts off.'
32. **opertus transmittat**: he endures the necessary coverings in spite of his fevered condition.
40. **laude dignum . . .** These expressions are very remarkable, and contrast strongly with modern feeling on the subject.
42. **cum multis.** Such were the disciples of Hegesias, 'the orator of Death,' who slew themselves in such numbers that Ptolemy banished the philosopher from Alexandria (Cic. *Tusc.* i. 83). Aulus Gellius states that at Miletus girls could scarcely be restrained from committing suicide by the severest legislation (*Noct. Att.* x. 15).
50. **assidenti**: while sitting by my friend's bedside.

77. (iii. 16.) The Death of Arria.

1. **adnotasse**: cf. 49. 15.
4. **Arriae illius.** Paetus having joined Scribonianus, who was in arms in Illyria against Claudius, was taken and condemned to death. Arria, his wife, persuaded him to destroy himself rather than suffer the disgrace of falling by the executioner's hand, and finding him somewhat reluctant, herself set him the example.
14. **commodiorem**, 'better*.'
23. **Paete, non dolet.** Martial has celebrated this heroic action:

> 'Casta suo gladium cum traderet Arria Paeto,
> Quem de visceribus traxerat ipsa suis,
> "Si qua fides, vulnus quod feci non dolet," inquit;
> "Sed quod tu facies, hoc mihi, Paete, dolet."'
>
> *Epig.* i. 13.

26. **matrem agere**, 'to seem the mother' when she was no longer so.
28. **in partibus**, 'of his party.'

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34. **nauculam***, 'boat.'
36. **profiteretur indicium**, 'pressed her to discover what she knew.'
40. **Thrasea**: a famous Stoic philosopher, put to death by Nero.
48. **cathedra**: a chair with a wide round back, of Greek origin, and confined to the women's apartments.
51. **videnturne** = *nonne videntur*: cf. 53. 26.

78. (ix. 39.) Instructions to an Architect about the rebuilding of a Temple.

1. **Haruspicum monitu.** The Stoics taught that every man should duly perform the religious ceremonies of his country. —Epictetus, *Enchir.* xxxi.
5. **multae res aguntur**, 'much business is transacted.'
9. **porticus.** These colonnades were intended for the people who attended the temple to meet in and converse.
13. **Carthaginem.** Cicero uses *ad* of proximity; cf. *Verr.* v. 49, 'cum ego *ad* Heracleam noctu accederem.'
17. **formam scribas**, 'sketch me out a plan.'
18. **circumdari.** Colonnades were built either all round the temple or only in front.

79. (vii. 27.) A Ghost Story.

7. **comes haeserat.** Tacitus, who tells the same story, calls him 'sectator quaestoris' (*Annal.* xi. 21).
inclinato die. Here Tacitus differs, making the ghost appear 'per medium diei,' a much more appropriate time, when the city would be quiet, and everybody taking the siesta.
9. **Africam se**, 'she was the tutelary deity of Africa.'
13. **facta sunt.** Curtius obtained the praetorship 'principis suffragio,' Tiberius being doubtless acquainted with the prophecy which thus led to its own fulfilment.
20. **pestilens.** The reason for this is explained, l. 27.
21. **si attenderes . . . reddebatur.** For this form of condit. sent. cf. Cic. *Verr.* iv. 13, 'canes venaticos diceres, ita odorabantur omnia.'
33. **Athenodorus**: a Stoic philosopher of Tarsus, tutor to the young Octavius.
36. **sterni**: *sc.* lectum.
38. **in interiora.** A Greek house consisted of two courts; round the first the men's apartments of all kinds were ranged,

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while the women's rooms were placed round the second court, and shut off by a door.

40. **audita simulacra,** 'imaginary noises.'

43. **auribusque praetendere,** 'he used his mind as a protection against his ears,' *i.e.* he concentrated his attention on his work, and refused to listen.

44. **crebrescere**: less classical than *increbrescere.*

59. **manibus caruit,** 'was no longer haunted by the spirit now duly laid to rest.' Suetonius relates that the ghost of Caligula haunted the house where he was slain until it was burnt down.'—Suet. *Cal.* 59.

66. **temporis medium**: cf. Ovid. *Metam.* iv. 167:

'Mediumque fuit breve tempus.'

74. **Caro**: Metius Carus, a 'delator' often mentioned by Pliny.

79. **consideres.** *Lat. Prim.* § 452*e*.

80. (ix. 33.) A true and veracious History of a Dolphin that fell in Love.

3. **super cenam**: cf. 59. 23.

5. **quid poëtae cum fide.** In another letter (v. 21. 6), to Caninius, Pliny makes a similar remark: 'poetis mentiri licet.'

6. **historiam scripturus.** As a matter of fact Caninius was engaged in writing the history of Trajan's war against the Dacians.

18. **subire,** 'take him on his back.' *Lat. Prim.* § 372.

23. **mari simile,** *i.e.* the lake and estuary.

27. **inplicitat * expeditque,** 'twines and untwines.'

31. **praebentem**: *sc.* se.

40. **incredibile.** Pliny evidently had an uneasy kind of recollection that his uncle had stated somewhere that 'dolphins die directly they touch land.' Cf. Plin. *H. N.* ix. 8. 7.

45. **religione prava,** 'an absurd piece of superstition.'

46. **cuius.** The relative here simply connects two co-ordinated sentences (=*et eius*).

51. **sumptibus,** 'expense arising from their entertainment.'

53. **ad quod coibatur,** 'the occasion of this concourse.'

55. **adfingas.** The *infinitive* is more classical after *opus*; cf. Cic. *de Amic.* 24.

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81. (x. 15. 26.) Pliny announces that he has started for his province.

Traiano. M. Ulpius Trajanus was sprung from a provincial family, and had risen to the position of commander of the Rhine (A.D. 9), when he was adopted and admitted to a share of the Empire by Nerva, who could not control the spirit of the army by himself.

1. **domine,** 'sire.' Pliny uses this word as a military officer writing to his chief; the early emperors refused the title as 'maledictum et opprobrium.' It was also used generally: 'obvios, si nomen non succurrit, Dominos appellamus.' Sen. *Ep.* iii.

2. **ὑπὲρ Μαλέαν,** 'past the promontory of Malea.' There was a proverb: 'cum Maleam deflexeris, domesticos obliviscere.'

5. **provinciam.** Pontica, including Bithynia and Pontus. It was one of the Provinciae Caesaris or Imperial Provinces reserved for the immediate administration of the Emperor. Pliny was Propraetor with consular power, and held office for about two years. See Map, p. xvi.

82. (x. 16. 27.) The Emperor's reply.

1. **carissime.** Trajan may have used this title to show his affection for Pliny, but it was commonly used in addressing higher officers.

4. **interim**: post-Augustan for *interdum.*

83. (x. 17. 28.) Pliny announces his arrival, and asks the Emperor to send a surveyor to inspect the works at Prusa.

6. **xv Kalendas.** *Sc.* die ante; Cicero always uses the attracted form, a.d. xv Kal. Oct.

10. **Prusensium.** Prusa, an important town on the borders of Bithynia, said to have been built by Hannibal.

16. **quinto decimo.** The repetition of the date is curious—apparently two letters have been sent by the same mail.

Trajan replies that he is engaged in so many architectural projects that he cannot spare a surveyor, and Pliny must get one from his province.

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84. (x. 19. 30.) Ought the custody of prisoners to be intrusted to slaves or to soldiers?

2. **publicos servos.** These were in rather a better position than private slaves, and were allowed to dispose of half their property by will; cf. 62. 6.

85. (x. 20. 31.) Trajan replies that soldiers must not be used for this purpose.

2. **commilitones,** 'my fellow-soldiers.' Augustus refused to use this term 'ambitiosius id existimans, quam aut ratio militaris aut temporum quies aut sua domusque suae maiestas postularet.'—Suet. *Octav.* 25. The later Emperors, who wished to keep on good terms with the army, used it regularly.
8. **illud haereat nobis,** 'let us hold fast to the principle.'

86. (x. 22. 34.) May the Prusenses build a new bath?

3. **videris**: an anacoluthon. The first part of the sentence does not correspond in construction with what follows; similar inaccuracies are to be found in many writers.
5. **revocare a privatis**: cf. 83. 20.

87. (x. 24. 35.) Permission granted.

2. **ne quid intribuatur***, 'let no new tax be imposed.'

88. (x. 27. 36.) How many soldiers should be assigned to a Receiver-general while engaged on a special service?

2. **beneficiarios.** These were a higher class of soldiers, who were exempt from menial duties, such as foraging or throwing up entrenchments. They were often employed on special services, as they could be better spared from the ranks than ordinary privates.
4. **ex his interim . . .**: the number has apparently dropped out.
6. **ad frumentum comparandum.** Egypt was the great emporium of corn, but in case of a failure of the harvest there, Trajan took measures to secure a constant supply of grain from other provinces.
8. **quid servari velis,** 'what method you wish observed.'

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89. (x. 28. 37.) Trajan replies that more soldiers may be allowed on the present occasion, but that for ordinary purposes four will be sufficient.

4. **pristinum actum,** 'his former post.'

90. (x. 29. 38.) What should be done in the case of two slaves who had been discovered among the recruits.

2. **duos servos.** Slaves were excluded, under the penalty of death, from entering into military service. In cases of great necessity this maxim was dispensed with, but they were set free before they were received into the army. After the fatal battle of Cannae, the Romans recruited their army with slaves, though they had not time to give them their freedom.
3. **conditorem disciplinae.** Trajan felt so secure of his authority that on his succession he reduced by one half the customary donative to the soldiers.
5. **ut,** 'though.' When used in this sense with the Indicative, *ut* is usually followed by *ita*.

91. (x. 30. 39.) The Emperor replies that they must be punished if they enlisted of their own free will.

3. **meruisse videantur.** Trajan here uses the words of the legal formula.
5. **inquisitio,** 'the recruiting-agency.'
9. **ille enim dies.** They ought to have given a full account of themselves at once.

92. (x. 31. 40.) About some criminals who had got mixed with the public slaves.

1. **salva magnitudine,** 'without loss to your dignity.'
2. **referendi ad te.** The unwearied and jealous care with which the Emperor decided the most minute points is most remarkable.
4. **in opus vel in ludum,** 'to the mines or public games.'
7. **annua,** 'an annual stipend.'

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14. **periculosum**, 'dangerous' because, as Tacitus says, 'quiescere esuriens non potest.'
21. **deprecantes**, 'upon their petition.'

93. (x. 32. 41.) Trajan replies that those who have been condemned within the last ten years must be sent back to their respective punishments, and gives instructions with reference to the others.

2. **ea.** *Lat. Prim.* § 229.

94. (x. 33. 42.) A Proposal to establish a Fire-brigade at Nicomedia.

4. **Gerusian.** The Gerusia was a Hospital intended (like the Charter-house in London) for the reception of aged men who had deserved well of their country.
Iseon, 'the temple of Isis.'
8. **sipho**, 'fire-engine.' The use of the siphon was known (in Egypt) as early as 1455 B.C.
13. **custodire**, 'to keep under proper regulation.'

95. (x. 34. 43.) The Emperor sends an absolute refusal.

1. **conplurium**, 'several other cities.' Augustus organised a large body of firemen at Rome. Cf. Suet. *Octav.* 30.
4. **factionibus.** Trajan brands these apparently harmless associations by the name of 'factions,' as if they were a danger to the constitution. (See 122. 8, note.)
7. **hetaeriae**, 'secret societies.'

96. (x. 37. 46.) An aqueduct for Nicomedia.

2. **HS. [XXX] CCCXXIX**: 'three million three hundred and twenty-nine thousand sesterces, = about £24,000.
8. **arcuato opere**, 'over arches.'
12. **testaceo opere**, 'brick.'
13. **aquilegem**: an engineer or water-inspector.

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97. (x. 38. 47.) Consent granted.

1. **civitas**: 'city'*.
6. **inchoaverint.** The *perfect* subjunctive is rarely used in a final clause, and implies here, 'be in a constant state of *having begun* aqueducts and dropped them.' Trajan does not say whether he can send the engineer asked for.

98. (x. 39. 48.) Pliny consults the Emperor about several architectural projects.

1. **Nicaeae**: Nicea, famous in ecclesiastical history as the seat of the first Christian Council, A.D. 325, at which the Nicene Creed was drawn up in its original form.
3. **centies**: £80,000. An enormous sum for a single city of a conquered province to expend on the mere shell of a theatre.
4. **rimis descendit**: the walls are cracked from top to bottom.
11. **basilicae.** As theatres were open at the top, some protection was necessary against bad weather.
15. **numerosius**, 'with more wings.' A Gymnasium was commonly a very extensive building, containing spacious halls to which philosophers resorted, besides baths, covered and uncovered walks, plantations, etc.
18. **sane aemulus**, 'a rival to be sure,' and therefore possibly not unbiassed in his opinion.
22. **Claudiopolitani**, 'the inhabitants of Claudiopolis,' a city at the foot of Mount Taurus.
24. **buleutae additi**: supernumerary councillors added to the provincial senates by permission of the Emperor. The ordinary entrance-fee was about £30, but some paid double. Cf. Plin. *Ep.* x. 113.

99. (x. 40. 49.) The Emperor replies that Pliny must use his own discretion.

4. **opera**: the portico, etc.
6. **indulgent Graeculi.** Both Romans and Greeks attached great importance to bodily exercise as a cure for disease, but in later Greek history the Gymnasia had become the resort of

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idle loungers, which will account for the contemptuous manner in which Trajan wrote.

8. **adgressi sunt.** Cicero always uses the *subjunctive* after *forsitan.*

100. (x. 50.) A proposal to connect Lake Sophon with the sea by a canal.

3. **aeternitate.** This title, and others like it, though used literally of the early Emperors, could only be employed in a complimentary manner to men like Nerva and Trajan, who made no pretence of being sprung from divine ancestors. Even the Christian Emperors willingly accepted these titles, and after all the language is hardly more inflated than that in which a mediæval lover addressed the divinity he worshipped.

16. **a rege percussam.** It is doubtful whether this canal was cut by the king of Persia or by one of the Bithynian monarchs.

18. **flumini**: the Sangarius.

101. (x. 51.) The Emperor consents, if the canal can be cut without draining the lake.

2. **mari.** The canal was to join the river, and thus connect the lake with the sea.

4. **Calpurnio Macro**: cf. 9.

102. (x. 43. 52.) Pliny states that he has sent the congratulations of the Byzantines, but has retained their envoy to save expense.

3. **annis omnibus.** Cf. 109.

5. **propositi tui**: the generous maxims of your government.

103. (x. 44. 53.) Trajan expresses his approval.

3. **perpetuo . . . his partibus.** The reading is corrupt, but the meaning is evidently that the decree will answer all purposes, as well as the envoy.

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104. (x. 45. 54.) What should be done in the case of 'diplomata' whose date has elapsed?

1. **diplomata,** 'post-warrants,' or permissions to make use of the horses and carriages by which *official* despatches were forwarded from one military station to another. By carefully restricting this privilege, the government obtained a practical monopoly of intelligence, as there was no public post.

105. (x. 46. 55.) The Emperor replies that he is always careful to send a new 'diploma' before the old one has expired.

1. **dies.** Evidently the Emperor and his Propraetor differed about the gender of this word! Cf. Caes. *B. G.* 1. 6.

106. (x. 47. 56.) Pliny writes that the people of Apamea, though willing to allow him to inspect their public accounts, denied his right to do so.

1. **Apameae**: a town on the borders of Bithynia near Mount Olympus.
3. **ut legerentur**: a very rare use of *ut* after *cupio*.
6. **administrare**: a Graecism for *administrandi*; cf. Liv. iii. 4 and xliv. 11.

To this Trajan replies that, as the people of Apamea do not object to having their accounts audited, their privileges need not be questioned.

107. (x. 49. 58.) Can an old Temple be removed without profanity?

3. **Matris Magnae**: Cybele, the mother of the gods.
6. **lex,** 'dedication,' properly the conditions under which the temple had been consecrated. Cf. Xen. *Anab.* v. 3.

108. (x. 50. 59.) Trajan replies that this may be done, as the soil of a foreign city is not capable of receiving consecration.

2. **positio*,** 'position.'
4. **nec te moveat.** Cf. 29. 10, note.

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109. (x. 52. 60.) A letter of congratulation to the Emperor on the day of his accession.

1. **servasti imperium.** The main danger was from the Praetorian Guards, who had set the authority of Nerva at defiance. Cf. 81, note.
4. **praeivimus.** Pliny as Propraetor renewed the oath of allegiance at the head of the army, which repeated it after him.

110. (x. 53. 61.) The Emperor courteously acknowledges the letter.

111. (x. 54. 62.) Pliny, being in difficulties about a large sum of money lying idle in the public treasury, proposes to compel responsible people to receive it on loan, at a low rate of interest.

2. **ministerio nostro**: cf. 86. 5.
4. **conparandorum**, 'purchasing.'
5. **rei publicae praesertim.** Borrowers preferred to deal with private persons, who were content with less security, and had less power of enforcing payment than the State.
6. **duodenis assibus.** 12 per cent. was the fixed rate of interest at Rome, but it was commonly calculated at the *monthly rate* (1 per cent.) and not *per annum*, as it is here. Possibly the words are an error of some copyist.

112. (x. 55. 63.) The Emperor consents to lower the rate of interest, but absolutely forbids 'compulsion.'

2. **quantitas.** The rate was afterwards reduced by Justinian to 6 per cent.

113. (x. 65. 71.) Concerning the state and maintenance of 'deserted' children.

3. **θρεπτούς.** The exposure of children was practised on a gigantic scale, and considered a very venial offence. At Rome and in the provinces they were carried systematically to a special place, and there taken by speculators, who brought them up as slaves (*θρεπτοί*). It was one of the first tasks of Christianity to arouse a better moral feeling on this point.

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12. **et Domitiani.** The soldiers wished to have Domitian enrolled among the national divinities, but the Senate absolutely refused. Suet. *Domit.* 23.
16. **scriniis,** 'archives.'

114. (x. 66. 72.) Trajan replies that their claim to freedom should be allowed.

9. **nec adsertionem denegandam.** This humane decision of Trajan was reversed A.D. 331, as it was found that it diminished the chance of the exposed child being taken care of by some charitable or interested person. The practice of bringing up exposed children as slaves appears to have existed until the general extinction of slavery in Europe.
12. **alimentorum.** Trajan had instituted a gigantic system by which orphans and the children of poor parents were maintained throughout the greater part of Italy, but this would not apply to the children in question, who were provincials.

115. (x. 68. 73.) Must the College of Priests be always consulted about the removal of the ashes of the dead?

2. **incursum,** 'an inundation.' Cf. Lucan. vii. 700:
'Respice turbatos incursu sanguinis amnes.'

116. (x. 69. 74.) Trajan replies that it is not necessary, and would be a hardship to the provincials.

117. (x. 70. 75.) The Emperor is requested to permit a bath at Prusa to be erected on a site belonging to the crown.

2. **quod indulsisti**: cf. 86.
4. **consequemur,** 'we shall gain the advantage.'
7. **relaxentur**: *v. l.* reparentur.
9. **Claudius Polyaenus**: a freedman of the Emperor.
10. **templum ei fieri.** 'The Asiatic Greeks first adopted this servile and impious method of adulation; the successors of Alexander were its first object. The Roman Magistrates were frequently adored as Provincial deities with the pomp of

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altars and *temples*, of festivals and sacrifices. It was natural that the Emperors should not refuse what the proconsuls had accepted.'—Gibbon, *Decl. and Fall*, ch. iii. In the same way the natives of Benares are said to have erected a temple to Warren Hastings.

locari. To be let in apartments.

23. **in quantum** = 'ἐφ' ὅσον, used in poetry and late prose for 'quantum.' Cf. Ov. *Met.* xi. 71.

118. (x. 71. 76.) Consent is given, if there is no religious obstacle in the way.

4. **aedes facta esset,** 'whether the temple had actually been dedicated.'

119. (x. 90. 91.) A 'very thirsty' colony.

2. **miliario.** The Roman mile consisted of 1000 passus of 4 ft. 10·248 inches; it was therefore about one-tenth shorter than the English mile.

120. (x. 91. 92.) The Emperor consents to Pliny's suggestion.

5. **viribus suis**: if their finances will stand the expense.

121. (x. 92. 93.) Are 'benefit clubs' allowable?

1. **foederata.** These were independent states, but under a general liability to furnish a contingent to the Roman army.
2. **indulgentiae tuae.** The right of living under its own laws was granted to Amisus by Lucullus.
3. **eranos***, 'benefit clubs.' These charitable societies were very common in Greek towns. If any member was reduced to poverty, the others advanced money to him as a loan, which he repaid at some future time if he was able.

122. (x. 93. 94.) Trajan replies that it cannot be prevented in this case, but must be allowed in no other.

2. **de officio foederis,** 'by the articles of alliance.'
4. **non impedire,** 'to permit.'

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8. **prohibenda est.** The danger which the Emperor anticipated from these societies was social rather than political. In the interest of the Nobles he discouraged any form of trades-unionism which was likely to enrich the lower classes. At the same time he always spoke of such societies as *politically* dangerous. Cf. 95. 4.

123. (x. 94. 95.) Pliny asks that the 'ius trium liberorum' may be granted to Suetonius.

1. **probissimum.** The character of Suetonius did not remain unblemished. Hadrian, whose secretary he was after Trajan's death, dismissed him from his post for behaving rudely—*iniussu eius*—toward the empress.
3. **contubernium**: a military term for a body of ten soldiers who shared the same tent, but used also in a wider sense of persons living in intimate friendship under the same roof.
5. **Ius trium liberorum**: a law passed in the time of Augustus to encourage population. It enacted that the parents of three children should receive precedence in holding offices, and should be relieved from various burdens. These privileges were granted by special favour to a few persons, among whom was Pliny himself, who had not the requisite number of children. Cf. Mart. ii. 91:

> 'Quod fortuna iuvat, Caesar, permitte videri,
> Natorum genitor credat ut esse trium.'

6. **iudicia amicorum,** 'the bounty of his friends.' Those who had fewer than three children could not claim the full benefit of any legacy left to them. With this sense of iudicium cf. Suet. *Aug.* 66, 'Quamvis minime appeteret hereditates . . . amicorum tamen suprema iudicia morosissime pensitavit.'
7. **inpetrandum habet.** This use of *habeo* may be compared with that of the more classical *compertum habeo.*

124. (x. 95. 96.) The Emperor consents, as a special indulgence.

2. **haeret tibi,** 'you must be aware.'
3. **numerum.** What this number was is unknown. This privilege was originally granted by the Senate itself; Trajan

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respected the dignity of that Order, but kept the power in his own hands.

125. (x. 98. 99.) Of a river which was really a drain!

1. **Amastrianorum civitas.** Amastris, a coast town of Paphlagonia, standing on a peninsula with a harbour on each side.
2. **eandemque**: a common method of joining adjectives. Cf. Cic. *Phil.* x. 8; 'certissimi iidemque acerrimi Caesaris actorum patroni.'

126. (x. 99. 100.) The Emperor desires that it may be covered in to prevent injury to health.

1. **rationis est,** 'it is highly reasonable.'

127. (x. 106. 107.) The petition of P. Accius Aquila.

2. **equestris.** In the regular army the cohort was an infantry division, one-tenth of the legion, but there were also at this period *cohortes peditatae* and *equitatae*, raised chiefly in the provinces. The latter were made up of infantry combined with cavalry.
5. **militum precibus.** Although Trajan was a strict disciplinarian (cf. 109. 1, note) several privileges were granted to the army, of which complaint is made in the last Satire attributed to Juvenal.

128. (x. 107. 108.) The Petition is granted.

3. **civitatem Romanam.** Under the empire the political rights of Roman citizens became insignificant, the right of trading (*commercium*) and of intermarriage according to Roman law (*connubium*) alone remaining valuable.

129. (x. 121.) Pliny apologises for having granted in an emergency a post-warrant for the use of his wife.

3. **servationem***, observance.
4. **avi.** Fabatus: cf. 28.
5. **amitam.** Hispulla, an excellent woman, by whom Calpurnia was brought up after her parents' death.

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6. **celeritate.** 'Houses were erected at the distance of five or six miles, each constantly provided with forty horses (for the Imperial post-service), and by the help of these relays it was possible to travel 100 miles a day.'—Gibbon.
7. **probaturum** : *sc.* te.

130. (x. 122.) A gracious reply.

2. **dubitandum fuisse.** The accus. and infin. depends on a verb of thinking contained in 'habuisti fiduciam animi mei.'

131. (x. 96. 97.) Pliny describes to Trajan his treatment of the Christians in his Province, and asks for instructions for the future.

4. **cognitionibus.** Except during the last year of Domitian, at a time when Pliny had withdrawn from public life, there had been no general persecution of the Christians since that of Nero (A.D. 64).
7. **quamlibet teneri.** A poetical use of *quamlibet*, common in Ovid. Cf. *Amor.* i. vii. 66, 'adiuvat infirmas *quamlibet* ira manus.'
10. **cohaerentia.** The most astonishing crimes were vulgarly supposed to be involved in the profession of Christianity. Cf. Tac. *Ann.* xv. 44, 'quos *per flagitia* invisos Christianos appellabat.'
13. **iterum ac tertio.** The reluctance of the Roman governors to yield to the popular outcry against the Christians is very marked all through the history of the persecutions.
14. **duci** : *sc.* ad supplicium.
15. **qualecumque esset.** Pliny was not alone in his ignorance of the tenets of the Christian Church. The great historians and moralists of the empire remained for three centuries entirely unconscious that there was anything in Christianity worthy of their attention. They were accustomed to look to Philosophy for their religion and rule of life, and regarded religious worship as a mere art for securing worldly prosperity, which was to be treated with outward respect as an instrument of government, but which was unworthy of the attention of an earnest-minded man. The various Oriental

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superstitions were considered especially contemptible. Thus Seneca never mentions Christianity at all; Epictetus and Marcus Aurelius only allude to it with a passing contempt.

16. **obstinationem.** The belief that it is wrong in religious matters to act a lie was unknown to the ancients. All schools of philosophers held that it was necessary to conform to the requirements of the national religion: 'tanquam legibus iussa, non tanquam diis grata.'—Sen. Marcus Aurelius (lxi. 3) mentions the 'pure obstinacy' with which Christians rush to death.

17. **puniri.** Cf. 9. 3, note.

18. **in urbem.** No Roman citizen could be put to death by a provincial governor.

23. **imagini tuae.** The adoration of the statue of the Emperor was looked upon as a test of loyalty, and did not imply any particular article of belief.

30. **etiam quoque.** These two words are often used together (pleonasm, *Lat. Prim.* p. 218). Cf. Cic. *de Orat.* i. 35.

34. **ante lucem.** The early hour at which these meetings were held, from fear of disturbance, gave rise to the idea that they were of the Bacchanalian kind, and it is noticeable that the Christians here defend themselves against the very crimes with which the worshippers of Bacchus had been charged. Cf. Liv. xxxix. 8.

35. **dicere secum invicem.** The hymn or form of prayer was repeated antiphonally.

38. **ne . . . abnegarent,** 'not to deny a trust when called upon to deliver it up.' Cf. Xen. *Anab.* v. 3.

39. **discedendi.** Cf. 106. 6, note.

40. **innocuum.** It was commonly reported that they feasted on human flesh—a report probably arising from the mysterious nature of the Sacramental Feast.

41. **quod . . . desisse**: the infinitive is used because *quod* = *et id.*

42. **hetaerias.** A government that could not tolerate the establishment of a guild of firemen (cf. 95) naturally looked with extreme suspicion on a highly organised and fast-growing body like the Christians.

43. **ministrae,** 'deaconesses': an ancient order in the church whose chief office was to instruct female converts and baptize them. They disappeared about the twelfth century.

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45. **pravam atque inmodicam.** Pliny evidently considered this 'superstition' as foolish as that of the magistrate who sacrificed to the dolphin; cf. 80. 45. Suetonius and Tacitus use similar language: 'Malefica superstitio' (Suet. *Nero*, 16); 'exitiabilis superstitio' (Tac. *Ann.* xv. 44).

53. **coepisse.** When used with the infin. passive as here (*celebrari*), 'coepta esse' is the more common form.

55. **rarissimus emptor.** The rapid spread of the new religion was necessarily injurious to any trade connected with the old worship. Cf. Acts xv. 27.

This letter has been called 'The First Apology' for Christianity. It is the only description in classical literature, with the exception of a few passing allusions, of the early Church, and bears valuable and unbiassed testimony to its purity and enthusiasm.

132. (x. 98.) Trajan replies that Christians must be punished if convicted, but should not be sought out; and that no anonymous accusations should be permitted against them.

1. **actum,** 'course.'

3. **in universum**: post-Aug. for *universe*.

10. **in nullo crimine.** Tertullian (*Apol.* c. 5) acknowledges the benefit of this condition; an anonymous accuser ran no risk, but it was dangerous to accuse openly members of a powerful sect, and informers who failed to make good their charge were also liable to severe legal penalties.

11. **pessimi exempli nec nostri saeculi,** 'a very bad precedent, and out of keeping with our times.' An excellent specimen of the elastic quality of the Latin genitive. 'Pessimi ex.,' as we say, '*of* evil omen.' Trajan might have used the dative with equal correctness. 'Nostri saec.'='belonging to' or 'appropriate to our age.' Here the dative could not be substituted. *Saeculum* as in letter 86. 8.

133. (vi. 16.) A letter to Tacitus, who was collecting materials for his History, containing an account of the eruption of Vesuvius, which caused the death of Pliny's uncle.

This was the famous eruption of A.D. 79, in which Pompeii

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and Herculaneum were destroyed, but no mention of either is made in the letter. See Map, p. 182.

2. **tradere.** The portion of the Histories of Tacitus which should contain this account is lost.

6. **quamvis enim . . .** An awkwardly expressed sentence, meaning that 'as the memorable catastrophe which caused his uncle's death was at the same time the cause of the destruction of a most beautiful tract of country, his name would live in history like those of cities and nations which have perished in like manner.'

10. **facere.** A poetical infinitive.

13. **Miseni.** Fleets were always stationed at Misenum and Ravenna; 'ad tutelam superi et inferi maris' (Suet. *Aug.* 49). The elder Pliny was Praefectus classis.

14. **nonum Kal.** : cf. 83. 6, note.

17. **sole . . . frigida** : cf. 135. 42.

19. **procul intuentibus** : a distance of fifteen miles.

22. **pinus.** The stone-pine, or umbrella-pine, as it is commonly called from its shape, is a striking feature in Italian landscapes.

25. **quia . . . in latitudinem vanescebat*** : 'because . . . it was expanding,' and became thinner as it broadened.

29. **si vellem.** *Lat. Prim.* § 469.

32. **Rectinae Tasci,** 'Rectina, wife of Tascus.' There is great confusion in the MSS. Other readings are *Retinae classiarii*, 'the naval officers at Retina,' a small village some little distance from the coast, or *Retinae Caesi Bassi.* Bassus, a lyric poet, had a villa at Retina, and perished in this eruption.

36. **maximo,** 'heroical.' The nephew seems to have admired, but not imitated, the uncle's conduct.

45. **vadum subitum.** This was caused by the earthquake: cf. 134. 33.

litora obstantia. The shore covered with the débris of the mountain prevented him from landing.

47. **'fortes fortuna iuvat'**: cf. Verg. *Aen.* x. 284, 'audentes fortuna iuvat.'

48. **Stabiis.** 'Stabiae in agro Campano oppidum fuit. . . . Sylla bello sociali id delevit quod nunc in villas abiit.'—Pliny, *N. H.* iii. 5. 10.

erat: *sc.* Pomponianus.

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diremptus. . . . 'separated by the intervening bay.'

52. **certus fugae**: genitive after 'certus' is not found in Augustan prose.

60. **claritas**, 'brightness.' *

65. **meatus * animae**: his snoring was heard by the attendants.

75. **exesorum**, 'hollow.'

76. **collatio periculorum**. A comparison of the dangers made them choose the latter course.

77. **ratio rationem**. He acted upon deliberate consideration, and not, like the others, from fear.

81. **solabantur**, *v.l.* solvebant.

83. **admitteret**: 'permitted.' An unusual use of *admitto*. Cf. Ter. *Eun.* iv. 6. 23, 'tu quod cavere possis stultum est admittere.'

91. **aestuans**. He often suffered from an inflamed throat. An unusual use of *stomachus*. Cf. Cic. *de Nat. Deor.* xi. 54.

dies redditus: the darkness lasted for two days.

134. (vi. 20.) The eruption of Mount Vesuvius—(*continued.*)

3. **abruperam**, 'at that point I broke off.'

5. **meminisse horret**: cf. Verg. *Aen.* ii. 12.

9. **Campaniae solitus**. Pompeii had been partly destroyed sixteen years before by an earthquake; 'qui Campaniam, nunquam securam huius mali, indemnem tamen et *totiens* defunctam, magna strage vastavit.'—Sen. *Nat. Quaest.* vi. 1.

11. **inrumpit cubiculum**: a preposition generally follows *inrumpo*. Cf. Cic. *de Div.* i. 24.

28. **egressi tecta**. This use of *egredior* with the simple accusative, though common in the Historians, is not found in Cicero.

33. **resorberi**. When an earthquake occurs near the shore the sea swells, and retires a short distance from the beach; then a great wave rolls in upon the shore.

34. **processerat litus**. The coast-line was completely altered by this fearful convulsion of Nature; though the old idea that the sea actually touched Pompeii, which is now two miles inland, has been abandoned by many authorities.

37. **discursibus rupta**. The flashes of forked lightning, which tore asunder the black cloud of smoke, disclosed large masses of flame.

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38. **fulguribus**, 'sheet-lightning'; 'fulgur est splendor fulminis' (Cic. *de Div.* ii. 19).
45. **periculo aufertur**. A poetical use of *aufero*.
46. **Capreas**. The distance from Capreae to Vesuvius is twenty-two miles.
58. **illunis***, 'moonless.'
60. **quiritatus***, 'wailing.' (From *quiritare* comes Fr. *crier*, our *cry*.) It is curious that Pliny does not mention the sound of the eruption itself, which must have been terrific.
65. **deos ullos**. Both Stoics and Epicureans shared the belief that the world was to be destroyed by fire, and that all the gods, except Jupiter himself, would perish:

> 'Trepidant, trepidant pectora magno
> Perculsa metu, ne fatali
> Cuncta ruina quassata labent,
> Iterumque deos hominesque premat
> Deforme chaos.'—Senec. *Thyest.* 828.

See also Lucan. *Phars.* i. 72, and Verg. *Georg.* i. 468.
68. **Miseni illud ruisse**, 'that last crash was at Misenum.'
69. Notice *non defuerunt qui augerent* (subj.), but *aderant qui nuntiabant* (ind.).
77. **magno tamen solatio**. A very proper thought for a young philosopher (*aet.* 18), suggested by Seneca: 'si cadendum est, cadam orbe concusso, quia ingens mortis solatium est, terram quandoque videre mortalem.'—*Nat. Quaest.* vi. 2. A most entertaining chapter, and much more suitable for perusal during an earthquake than the book of Titus Livius!
80. **cum deficit**, 'during an eclipse.'
87. **ludificabantur**, 'rendered ridiculous.'
89. **nuntius**: *sc.* veniret.
91. **imputabis**, for the Ciceronian *ascribes*.

135. (iii. 5.) A description of the daily life of Pliny the Elder, with a catalogue of his works.

3. **indicis**, 'table of contents.' Cf. Cic. *Att.* iv. 4.
5. **iaculatio**, 'the use of the javelin.'

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7. **Pomponii Secundi.** Pomponius was the General under whom the elder Pliny served in Germany. He was also a distinguished poet.

12. **somnio monitus** : cf. 47. 14.

13. **latissime victor.** Drusus (younger brother of the Emperor Tiberius) carried the Roman arms in four campaigns as far as the Elbe. He died owing to a fall from his horse. With the phrase cf. Verg. *Aen.* i. 25; Hor. 3 *Od.* xvii. 9.

15. **studiosi** : 'in his libris multa varie ad oblectandas eruditorum hominum aures ponit.'—Aul. Gell. ix. 3.

18. **Dubii sermonis** : a grammatical work on 'ambiguities of expression.'

20. **Aufidi Bassi,** a historian who wrote a history of Augustus and Tiberius, in whose reign he lived. Pliny continued his history.

21. **Naturae historiarum.** The ancients included under Natural History everything that was not effected by human agency.

22. **diffusum,** 'extensive' : a favourite word with post-Augustan prose writers.

31. **a nocte multa.** To begin work at midnight was not uncommon. Cf. Juv. xiv. 190 :

> 'At nunc
> Post finem auctumni media de nocte supinum
> Clamosus iuvenem pater excitat; accipe ceras,
> Scribe puer!'

Many considered the festival of Vulcan (Aug. 23) an auspicious occasion to begin working by candle-light.

ab hora septima, *i.e.* an 'hour' after midnight; the twelve 'hours' of the night were calculated from sunset to sunrise, so that each of them in winter contained about 75 minutes.

38. **levem et facilem.** Seneca (*Ep.* 83) followed the same custom : 'panis deinde siccus et sine mensa prandium post quod non sunt lavandae manus.' Cf. Cic. *Tusc.* v. 35 : 'nullo modo placuit (sc. Platoni) bis in die saturum fieri.' Considering the fact that Pliny's uncle rose at midnight, it seems wonderful that he could have remained so long without breaking his fast, though he used to take the 'prandium' somewhat before the usual hour (noon); cf. 133. 15. But only invalids and workmen touched food before the prandium, and many people ate only once a day; cf. 136. 33; 139. 22.

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38. **in cenae tempus.** Three P.M. was the ordinary dinner-time, but it was often later; cf. 136. 33.
45. **super hanc**: cf. 59. 23, note.
52. **intra primam**, sc. *horam*. It is curious that no mention is made of 'bed-time.'
55. **de interioribus**: while he was actually in the water.
62. **cur**=*quia*; cf. Cic. *Verr.* iii. 8. 16, 'reprehendo et accuso, cur in re tam vetere quidquam novi feceris.'
63. **non perdere.** Seneca also disapproved of bodily exercise: 'minimum exercitationi corporis datum; et hoc nomine ago gratias senectuti.'—Sen. *Ep.* 83.
66. **electorum commentarios**, 'note-books full of selections,' or commonplace books.
70. **Largio Licinio**, an advocate whose method of obtaining a favourable audience is mentioned in one of Pliny's letters (*Ep.* ii. 14) with opprobrium.
79. **ego autem tantum**, 'but why do I mention myself?'

136. (iii. 1.) The old age of Vestricius Spurinna.

1. **exegerim**: poetical for *transegerim*.
2. **Spurinnam.** Spurinna was one of Otho's generals who had been honoured with a statue for his bloodless victory over the Bructeri during the reign of Trajan.
3. **senescere**: cf. 133. 10.
5. **distinctius**, 'better regulated.'
8. **non indecent***, 'are not unbecoming.' Cf. Cic. *De Orat.* ii. 21. 'volo esse in iuventute, unde aliquid amputem.'
11. **si non cotidie fiant**: trifles cease to be trifling when they form part of a scheme of daily life.
15. **sermones explicantur**: an unusual phrase, suggesting the serious nature of the conversation.
23. **praecipere**, 'to be dictatory.'
26. **utraque lingua**: Greek and Latin. Cf. Hor. 3 *Od.* viii. 5, 'docte sermones utriusque linguae.'
31. **pila movetur.** Under the Empire ball was generally played before the bath, in a room prepared for the purpose. The favourite game was the 'trigon,' played by three persons, who caught and threw the ball with the *left* hand. Cf. Mart. xiv. 46.
33. **cibum differt.** According to this account Spurinna cannot

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have tasted food before 6 or 7 P.M. in summer, as the bath and exercises which preceded it must have taken a considerable time.

37. **delectatur nec adficitur,** 'his pleasure, not his passion.' Corinthian bronze, 'paucorum furore pretiosa,' Sen. *Brev. Vit.* 12, was considered more precious than gold.

43. **agile et vividum.** Both these words are post-Augustan.
solaque . . . : No sign of old age save the wisdom, 'quam ut cetera auferat, affert certe senectus.'—Cic. *Tusc.* i. 39.

45. **ratio aetatis.** Sixty was the recognised age at which to retreat from public life: 'ut ipsae leges monent quae maiorem annis sexaginta otio reddunt.'—Plin. *Ep.* iv. 23.

52. **subsigno:** post-Aug. for *obsigno.*

53. **in ius voces:** cf. 33. 24.

137. (ii. 17.) A description of Pliny's winter residence at Laurentum.

1. **Laurentinum . . .** Laurens: comp. the forms 'Tiburtinum,' 'Tiburs,' 'Veientinum,' 'Veiens,' etc.

4. **litoris spatium,** 'the extensive prospect of the sea-coast.'

5. **salvo die,** 'with your day's work safe and undisturbed.' Dies = opera diei.

6. **ibi manere,** 'to spend the evening in the villa.'

10. **iunctis:** *sc.* iumentis.

16. **usibus capax:** large enough for convenience without being expensive to keep up. The dative with *capax* is uncommon. Cf. Ov. *Met.* viii. 243: 'animi ad praecepta capacis.'

17. **atrium.** The atrium or cavaedium (but see l. 22, note) was the most important room in a Roman house. In the city it was placed near the entrance, but in the country it was generally in the interior of the house. It was a covered room, but had an aperture in the ceiling by which the rain-water was conducted into the *impluvium.* In large houses the *atrium* was filled with statues and works of art.

18. **D. litterae.** Some MSS. read O instead of D.

19. **festiva:** a favourite word with Pliny; cf. 56. 2.

20. **specularibus:** windows made of a transparent stone (mica).

22. **cavaedium.** There is no other instance known in which a house possessed both an *atrium* and a *cavaedium,* and the main reception-room is called indifferently by either name.

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But the houses discovered at Pompeii and elsewhere are small, and it may have been the custom in large villas to have two reception-rooms, in which case the 'minores amici' would probably be admitted to the *atrium*, and the *cavaedium* be kept for more intimate friends.

25. **fenestras.** Orig. openings closed by shutters or curtains, but in the time of the Emperors fitted with sheets of mica or glass. They were generally small and high up.

30. **cubiculum**: either a room to rest in during the day, or a bedroom.

33. **securius**: the waves never reached it.

37. **serenum ante.** On fine days the exercising-ground was never windy; it faced nearly due south. See Plan, p. 120.

39. **hapsida**: a circular form.

41. **armarium.** The cases containing the rolls in a library were called *armaria.* Seneca censures the habit of collecting large libraries of books for mere show (*De Tranquill. Anim.* ix.).

42. **membrum,** 'room.'

43. **suspensus**: supported by pillars, or more probably built over a stove.

43. **tubulatus*,** 'furnished with pipes' for hot air: *v.l.* tabulatus.

46. **plerisque**: *sc.* membris.

48. **politissimum,** 'in a very elegant taste.' In the houses discovered at Pompeii the smallest apartments are lined with a kind of stucco as smooth and hard as marble, which is painted in the most brilliant and endless variety of colours. In the houses of the wealthiest Romans, slabs of the most precious marble were inserted in the walls, and a method was discovered of veining these with gold. The floors were often covered with mosaic.

50. **procaetone,** 'anteroom.'
altitudine, 'loftiness.'

55. **baptisteria . . . sinuantur,** 'two round swimming-baths project.'

56. **unctorium,** 'the perfuming room.'

57. **propnigēon,** 'furnace-chamber.' A passage leading from the furnace to the bath.

57. **cellae**: small bathing-rooms. Roman magnificence was particularly shown in the splendour of their baths. Cf. Sen. *Ep.* 86.

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69. **gestationem.** An avenue shaded by trees for gentle exercise, such as being carried in a litter. Sen., *Ep.* 55, objects to this practice as contrary to nature—'quae pedes dedit ut per nos ambularemus.'
61. **turris.** Towers for defence were sometimes added to ancient houses, as is shown by pictures discovered at Pompeii, but the word here simply implies a building with more than one story.
71. **apertoque vento**: a curious expression, suggested by 'aperto caelo.'
73. **vinea,** 'a walk planted with vines.'
77. **hac . . . facie,** 'this prospect, which is equal to a sea-view.'
79. **hortus rusticus**: kitchen-garden.
80. **cryptoporticus*** . . . **operis**: a gallery large enough for a public building.
82. **alternis singulae**: *i.e.* one opposite to every other window of the other side; but the reading here is doubtful. *Alternis*, cf. Verg. *Ecl.* iii. 59.
85. **xystus**: a terrace marked out into flower-beds. The Greeks, however, used the word to signify a covered portico used by athletes in winter.
98. **manente,** 'growing stagnant.'
101. **heliocaminus***, 'a sunny chamber.'
104. **zotheca,** 'a small cabinet,' properly a 'cage for wild beasts.'
107. **a tergo,** 'behind you,' as you lie on the couch.
108. **distinguit et miscet**: the different views could be seen separately or all at once.
109. **cubiculum noctis**: the room in which the night was spent was different from the one used for the midday siesta.
113. **andron,** 'space' left between two walls for the rain-water to fall through (Forcellinus). In Greek architecture the word signifies 'the men's apartments.'
117. **supposituin calorem,** 'the heat from the stove beneath.'
124. **licentia dierum.** During this festival slaves were allowed to treat their masters with great freedom; cf. Hor. 2 *Sat.* vii. 5.
126. **deficitur,** 'spoilt by the want of.'
127. **in summo,** 'they rise very near the surface.'
134. **una villa discernit**: there is only one villa between mine and the village.
141. **indurat,** 'hardens' by washing over its sands.
149. **dotibus**: charm*.

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149. **villula.** Strictly speaking, Pliny's Laurentine home was not a *villa*, as it had no estate or farm-buildings connected with it.

138. (v. 6.) Pliny's Tuscan villa.

2. **Tuscos meos.** This was Pliny's principal seat; near Arretium, and distant about 150 miles from Rome, where he spent most of the summer. In his description he lays special stress on its attractions as a *summer* residence.
4. **ora . . . litus.** *Ora* implies a wider tract of territory than *litus*. Cf. Cic. *de Nat. Deor.* 39, 'amoenitates orarum et litorum'; also Verg. *Georg.* ii. 44.
5. **hi**: sc. the villa.
10. **myrtos.** These are very susceptible of cold. Cf. Verg. *Ecl.* vii. 6, 'teneras defendo a frigore myrtos.'
11. **laurum,** 'the bay-tree'; not our *laurel*, which was hardly known in Europe till the end of the sixteenth century, and which is not 'sweet-scented.' Cf. Verg. *Ecl.* ii. 55.
23. **caeduae silvae**: woods fit for cutting, 'coppices.'
24. **pingues terrenique,** 'of deep rich soil': cf. Livy xxxviii. 20.
28. **sub his**: 'Bacchus amat colles,' Verg. *Georg.* ii. 112.
29. **unam faciem . . . contexunt,** 'present one unbroken view.'
34. **nono demum sulco.** The Elder Pliny speaks of soils in Italy which required to be ploughed *five* times (*Hist. Nat. Phil.* xviii. 20).

    gemmea et florida: 'enamelled'; another reading is *frigida et gemmea*, but the hendiadys is quite in Pliny's style. Cf. 142. 36.
37. **palus nulla.** Etruria abounded in marshes caused by the overflow of its numerous rivers, but in many places the banks have now been artificially raised, and the malaria has been much abated. The coast district still remains extremely unhealthy.
45. **formam . . . pictam.** There were famous *landscape*-painters in the days of Augustus, but in Pliny's time the artist had sunk to the level of the decorative tradesman.
48. **quasi ex summo.** The slope was so gradual that it did not interfere with the view of the mountains behind and the plain in front.
55. **pro modo,** 'long in proportion.'

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57. **ex more veterum**, 'an old-fashioned atrium.' The *atrium* or *blackened* chamber of the early Romans consisted of four rough wooden walls and a pointed roof, with an opening left for the smoke to escape. In the poorer houses little was added to this, and it was generally a chief feature in the mansions of the wealthy.

59. **pulvinus**, a 'slope.'
bestiarum . . .: 'representation of animals in two lines answering alternately to one another.'

61. **liquidus**. ὑγρὸς ἄκανθος, Theocr. The epithet applies to the agreeable sheen of the leaves. The plant mentioned is *Brankursine*, or Bear's breech (*Acanthus mollis*), described by Dioscorides (A.D. 150) as having 'long broad leaves of a dark-green colour, cleft like a rocket; the stem is two cubits high, with small *prickly* leaves at the top, from which arise the white flowers.' Vergil applies the name *Acanthus* also to the *Acacia arabica* (*Georg.* ii. 119, 'semper frondentis acanthi'), and apparently to some species of broom (*Georg.* iv. 123). Castell thinks Pliny's plant must have been a kind of moss; others a species of *Mimosa*, which grows along the ground and would answer to the description given in the text.

65. **gradata**, 'cut into steps' or ranges.

69. **xystum desinentem**, *i.e.* 'xysti partem extremam.' Cf. Flor. iv. c. ult.

70. **protinusque pratum**: cf. 44. 4.

71. **quod prosilit**, 'the projecting part.'
hippodromi. The hippodrome was used either as a running-ground or for horse-exercise. Here it was probably only a walk or set of walks.

82. **podio**, 'balcony.' (Forcellinus); more probably a continued pedestal or 'dado' on which the pillars rested.

83. **pictura**. This style of decoration was called *ropography* (twig-painting). A good example of the combination of real with painted shrubs and flowers is to be seen in the Pseudo-Garden in the House of Actaeon.—Sir W. Gell's *Pompeii*.

84. **sipunculi**: small pipes to conduct the water into the basin (crater).

87. **fenestris servit**: 'answers the purpose of a view to the windows.' Cf. Plin. *Ep.* i. 3. 1, 'serviens lacus.'

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95. **in area piscina.** This would be warmer, because exposed to the rays of the sun.

96. **puteus**: a cold swimming-bath.
adstringi, 'to brace yourself' by closing the pores of the skin.

97. **media**: a warm room for undressing or anointing if the bathers feared a chill.

99. **descensiones**: sunken places or baths.

102. **circuli**, 'sets of players'; 'circuli ludentum,' Petron. 27.

106. **ut prospectus**, 'as many views as aspects.'

111. **usus**: *v.l.* visus.

117. **convivio utilia**, 'the requisites for a banquet.'

128. **praecedit**, . . . 'in front of these agreeably arranged buildings lies . . .' *Dispositio* is used technically of oratory (Cic.), architecture and painting.

143. **formas mille.** A monstrous method of distorting nature introduced in the time of Augustus. This is the only extant description of the plan of a Roman garden.

145. **metulae**, 'pyramids' of box; 'alternis,' cf. 137. 82.

148. **hinc inde**, 'in different directions.'

149. **flexuosus.** The Acanthus is called by the elder Pliny 'urbanum et topiarium, habet enim caulem maxime *sequacem*.' It is not however the stem, but the margins of the leaves which are '*flexible*,' and render it so good a subject for engravers. Cf. Propert. iv. 9. 14, 'at Myos exiguum flectit acanthus iter.' A fine example of its use is to be seen in the Warwick vase found in Hadrian's villa.

150. **stibadium***: a semicircular seat (originally composed of rushes, *στιβάς*).

156. **naucularum***, 'little boats.' When luncheon was served at this spot the heavier dishes were placed round the margin, while the smaller ones floated in the water.

164. **idem atque aliud**: cf. 137. 105.

176. **argutior**: 'too prolix.'

188. **Homerus** . . . The passages are *Il.* xviii. 478-612 and *Aen.* viii. 617-731.

190. **Aratus**: an astronomer of the third century B.C. quoted by St. Paul, Acts xvii. 28. Cicero calls him 'ignarus Philosophiae.'

193. **parva magnis**: cf. Verg. *Ecl.* i. 23.

196. **illuc unde**: *sc.* revertar.

199. **Tusculanis.** Besides all these Pliny had several villas on Lake Como.

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201. **nulla necessitas togae**: what Martial (x. 51) calls 'tunicata quies.' So 'toga feriata,' 22. 8.
202. **accersitor***, 'summoner.'
208. **venia sit dicto**, 'may the boast be pardoned': words inserted to deprecate the wrath of Nemesis.

139. (ix. 36.) Pliny describes his own life in summer at his Tuscan villa.

2. **circa**: post-Augustan for *circiter*.
7. **quotiens non vident alia.** There was a tradition that Democritus blinded himself. 'Quia existimaret cogitationes commentationesque animi . . . exactiores fore, si eas videndi illecebris et oculorum impedimentis liberasset.'—Aul. Gell. x. 17.
10. **potuerunt**: (My thoughts) have been able.
20. **stomachi**: 'si quis stomacho laborat, legere clare debet; post lectionem ambulare.'—Celsi *Medic.* i. 8.
22. **cenanti.** There is no mention here of the 'prandium,' or of any other meal besides 'dinner.'
23. **cum meis**: *sc.* servis.
25. **conditur**: cf. Verg. *Ecl.* ix. 51:

. . . . 'saepe ego longos
Cantando puerum memini me condere soles.'

32. **non sine pugillaribus**: cf. 11. 6.

140. (ix. 40.) Winter-life at the Laurentine Villa.

3. **exigerem**: cf. 136. 1, note.
6. **agendi**: *sc.* causas.
7. **illa quae dictavi**, 'the draft of the proposed speech.'
8. **memoriae proficitur**, 'assistance is given to the memory.'

141. (viii. 8.) A description of the source of the river Clitumnus.

4. **hunc subter.** Many prepositions in good prose follow the pronouns *qui* and *hic* instead of preceding them.
6. **quem facit gurgitem.** The antecedent (*gurges*) is attracted into the clause and case of the relative. Cf. Verg. *Aen.* i. 573, 'urbem quam statuo vestra est.'

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7. **purus et vitreus.** The purity and whiteness of this stream was supposed to communicate itself to the animals that bathed in it. Cf. Verg. *Georg.* ii. 146; Propert. ii. 19, 25.

iactas stipes: such offerings were usual. Cf. Suet. *Aug.* 57, 'in lacum Curtii quotannis ex voto pro salute eius stipem iaciebant.'

9. **ipsa sui copia**: cf. 138. 53.

12. **transmittit**, 'carries along.' Cf. 137. 98.

illa, 'in the direction.' Post-Augustan.

19. **certaverit.** The future perfect is often used instead of the simple future, especially of a predicted result. Cf. Cic. *Fin.* iii. 4, 'multum . . . explicatio tua ista profecerit.' Also Hor. *Epod.* ii. 49.

nivibus: the dative is poetical. Here the colour of the *foam* is taken as representative of the stream itself, whose 'glassy deeps' have already been described, l. 7. Martial (vii. 32) speaks of '*niveas* virginis undas.'

20. **templum.** A temple (now used as a chapel dedicated to the Saviour) still stands on this site, but it is considered by the best judges to be of later date than the one described by Pliny.

21. **Clitumnus ipse.** Jupiter was himself worshipped in Umbria under the title of Clitumnus.

26. **capite discreti**, 'taking their rise from different sources.'

27. **sacri**: 'magnorum fluminum capita veneramur.'—Sen. *Ep.* 41.

29. **natare.** The act of swimming in sacred waters was strictly forbidden. Cf. Tac. *Ann.* xiv. 22. Sometimes sailing was also forbidden. Cf. 142. 23.

Hispellates, the people of Hispellum (Spello), an Umbrian town.

Lord Byron's description of the scene is worth quoting in full:—

> But thou, Clitumnus! in thy sweetest wave
> Of the most living crystal that was e'er
> The haunt of river nymph, to gaze and lave
> Her limbs where nothing hid them, thou dost rear
> Thy grassy banks whereon the milk-white steer
> Grazes; the purest god of gentle waters,
> And most serene of aspect, and most clear;
> Surely that stream was unprofaned by slaughters—
> A mirror and a bath for Beauty's youngest daughters!

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And on thy happy shore a Temple still,
Of small and delicate proportion, keeps,
Upon a mild declivity of hill,
Its memory of thee; beneath it sweeps
Thy current's calmness; oft from out it leaps
The finny darter with the glittering scales,
Who dwells and revels in thy glassy deeps;
While, chance, some scattered water-lily sails
Down where the shallower wave still tells its bubbling tales.

142. (viii. 20.) Floating Islands.

1. **transmittere**: cf. 141. 27.
3. **proximorum incuriosi**: cf. Pind. *Pyth.* iii. 21:

ἔστι δὲ φῦλον ἐν ἀνθρώποισι ματαιότατον,
ὅστις αἰσχύνων ἐπιχωρία παπταίνει τὰ πόρσω.

So Ausonius, 'spernimus in commune omnes praesentia.'

9. **Achaia . . .**: cf. Juv. x. 173, 'Creditur olim velificatus Athos et quicquid Graecia mendax audet in historia.'
10. **audita . . . haberemus.** The tendency toward the use of *habeo* as an *auxiliary* verb is worth notice.
12. **nec audieram.** Pliny might easily have heard of the marvels of this lake from his uncle, *H. N.* ii. 95, also from Sen. *Nat. Quaest.*: iii. 25, where several other instances are quoted, and an explanation of the phenomenon suggested.
13. **prosocer**: Fabatus.
18. **obliquitas***, irregularity.
20. **albidior . . .**: 'clearer than that of the sea, and of a deeper green.' Possibly Pliny uses *pressior* in the sense of '*subdued.*' Cf. *pressa cunctatio*, cf. 76. 12.
21. **medica vis.** A list of wonders worked by the water of various rivers and lakes is to be found, Sen. *Nat. Quaest.* iii. 25.
solidantur, 'are cemented.'
23. **sacer enim**: cf. 141. 29.
27. **derasae**, 'worn away.'
29. **humili radice**, a 'shallow root or bottom.'
31. **eademque pariter**, 'there is just as much above as below water.'
32. **discordantibus ventis.** So Vergil (*Aen.* i. 85) makes three out of four winds blow at once: 'Quod fieri nullo modo potest,' Sen. *Nat. Quaest.* v. 16.

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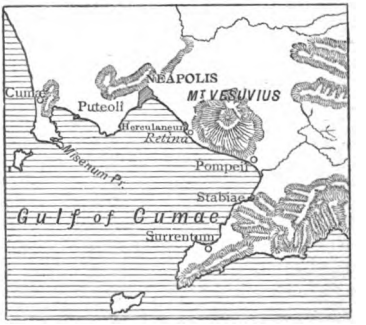
32. **destitutae**: cf. 133. 25.
33. **tranquillitate**, 'during a calm.'
35. **cymbulae***, 'little boats.'
36. **cursum certamenque**: cf. 138. 34, note.
38. **promovent terram.** When the islands collect on one side they advance the shore and diminish the lake *at that side*, but when they occupy the middle they restore the coast-line to its original form.
48. **profert**, 'brings it up again' when the stream emerges.

The 'Lago di Bassano' is now only a stagnant pond which has been almost stopped up by the islands mentioned by Pliny. 'The phenomenon of floating islands may still be observed in the Lago d'Isole Natanti, near Tivoli, and is caused by the petrifying nature of the water, which binds together the roots of reeds or coarse grass that occasionally become detached from the surface.' Cf. Dennis' *Etruria*, p. 146, note.



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